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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the existing human rights law: best practices, experiences, challenges and ways to overcome them

Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Summary

The present study identifies challenges to the right to political and public participation and ways to overcome those challenges. It provides examples of best practices and experiences with respect to the implementation of the right to participate in political and public affairs. It also makes recommendations drawn from the contributions received as well as from other available sources.

The study should be read in conjunction with the report on factors that impede equal political participation and steps to overcome those challenges (A/HRC/27/29), which examines the human rights framework and jurisprudence of United Nations human rights mechanisms in relation to participation in political and public affairs.

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I. Introduction

1. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 27/24, requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a study on best practices, experiences and challenges and ways to overcome them with regard to the promotion, protection and implementation of the right to participate in public affairs in the context of the existing human rights law, with a view to identifying possible elements of principles guiding the implementation of that right, in consultation with States, relevant United Nations agencies, intergovernmental organizations, the treaty bodies, the special procedures, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders. Notes verbales were sent to all relevant stakeholders on 16 January 2015 and 66 responses were received. The contributions from stakeholders are available on the OHCHR website.[1]

2. Pursuant to the request made by the Council, the present study identifies challenges to political and public participation, presents ways to overcome those challenges and provides examples of experiences and best practices in that regard. It also draws conclusions from the contributions received from stakeholders, as well as from information from other sources, with a view to identifying elements guiding the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs.

3. The study, in particular sections II and III, should be read in conjunction with the report on factors that impede equal political participation and steps to overcome those challenges (A/HRC/27/29), which thoroughly examines the human rights framework and the jurisprudence of United Nations human rights mechanisms in relation to participation in political and public affairs.

II. Human rights framework relating to equal participation in political and public affairs

4. Participation is a hallmark of democracy. It entails timely consultation so as to legitimize the exercise of State power. As articulated in article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the right to participation encompasses the rights of the individual to vote and to be elected; to take part in the conduct of public affairs; and to have access to public service. Other international human rights treaties contain similar provisions, which complement the Covenant.[2]

5. In its interpretation of the obligations of States under article 25 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee requires that positive measures be adopted to ensure the full, effective and equal enjoyment of participatory rights, including through inclusive, meaningful and non-discriminatory processes and mechanisms.[3] States also should guarantee full and effective access to justice and redress mechanisms to people who have been unduly deprived of their right to participate in political and public affairs.[4]

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[1] See**Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**

[2] See A/HRC/27/29, para. 8.

[3] A/HRC/27/29, para. 12 and Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25 (1996) on the right to participate in public affairs, voting rights and the right to equal access to public service, paras. 12, 26 and 27. See also A/HRC/27/51, para. 61 and A/HRC/23/36, para. 24.

[4] See A/HRC/27/29, para. 16.

6. The Human Rights Committee's general comment No. 25 on article 25 of the Covenant, as well as jurisprudence adopted by the Committee and other treaty bodies provide guidance on the measures that States should take to implement the right to participate in political and public affairs. In recent years, there has been a progressive evolution of international human rights law and jurisprudence regarding the scope of this right, which has led many stakeholders to call for a revision of general comment No. 25.[5]

7. Free and fair elections constitute an imperative means of giving voice to the will of the people. Article 25 (b) of the Covenant recognizes the right of every citizen to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, thereby underlining the importance of inclusivity and equality. The Human Rights Committee has clarified the essential elements of this right. Notably, it requires that States parties, in fulfilling their obligations under article 25 (b) of the Covenant, take positive measures to ensure the full, effective and equal enjoyment of electoral rights, without discrimination, as well as the freedoms of expression, information, assembly and association. Those are essential conditions for the effective exercise of the right to vote and must be fully protected.[6]

8. Wide-reaching restrictions or deprivations of electoral rights may not be compatible with guarantees of equality and non-discrimination under international law.[7] The Human Rights Committee notes that the right to vote may be subject only to reasonable restrictions, such as setting a minimum age limit to vote. The Committee also notes that any restrictions on the right to stand for election must be justifiable on objective and reasonable criteria.[8] In that regard, it states that any abusive or discriminatory interference with the registration of voters or candidates for public office and other elements of the electoral process should be prohibited by criminal law and that effective access to justice and appropriate remedies should be guaranteed for people who have been deprived of their political rights.[9]

9. International human rights instruments and mechanisms acknowledge the right of all people to be fully involved in and to effectively influence public decision-making processes that affect them. To ensure full and effective participation in political and public affairs on an equal basis, participatory mechanisms and processes must conform to certain principles. First of all, participatory mechanisms should be established by law[10] and all stakeholders must have access to information in a timely and transparent manner, which implies that State authorities must make every effort to ensure easy, prompt, effective and practical access to information of interest to the public.[11] Participation mechanisms and processes should be sufficiently resourced, non-discriminatory, inclusive and designed so that concerned groups, even the most marginalized, have the opportunity to voice their opinions.

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[5] See the contributions from International Disability Alliance, the European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). Calls for a revision of general comment No. 25 were also made by The Carter Center and Democracy Reporting International, *Strengthening international law to support democratic governance and genuine elections* (April 2012).

[6] See Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, paras. 12, 26 and 27 and A/HRC/27/29, para. 12.

[7] See A/HRC/27/29, para. 10.

[8] Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, paras. 10 and 15.

[9] Ibid., paras. 10–13; also A/HRC/27/29, para 16.

[10] Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, para. 5.

[11] See Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 34 (2011) on freedoms of opinion and expression (art. 19), para. 19.

10. Public participation rights encompass the right to be consulted at each phase of legislative drafting and policymaking; to voice opinions and criticism; and to submit proposals aimed at improving the functioning and inclusivity of all State bodies.[12]

11. Participation requires a long-term and genuine commitment to engage in processes of intensive dialogue regarding the development of policies, programmes and measures in all relevant contexts.[13] The Economic Commission for Europe Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is a good example of the recognition of the right to participation. It links environmental rights with human rights, in particular the right to participation, and is based on three pillars – access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.[14]

12. Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights also recognizes the right and the opportunity of citizens to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service. To ensure equal access, the criteria and processes for appointment, promotion, suspension and dismissal must be objective and reasonable. Affirmative measures may be taken in appropriate cases to ensure that there is equal access to public service for all citizens.[15]

13. Participation in political and public affairs underpins the realization of all human rights and is inextricably linked to them. It cannot be considered in a vacuum without taking into consideration structural issues such as poverty or literacy levels. States' contribution to this study confirm that the respect and full exercise of the rights to freedoms of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly, and the rights to information, education and access to justice, are prerequisites to an enabling environment for participation in the conduct of political and public affairs.[16] Closing the "digital divide" is also essential to give full effect to the right to participate in political and public affairs, notably to allow disadvantaged groups to obtain information and express their grievances by using new communications technologies.[17]

III. Challenges to the right to participate in political and public affairs

14. Restrictions to the right to participate in political and public affairs, while permissible, must be objective, reasonable, non-discriminatory and provided for by law.[18] As with other political rights, such as freedoms of assembly and association, opinion and expression, any restrictions must be necessary and proportionate. The "essence" of the right

[12] See Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, art. 8; also A/HRC/13/23, paras. 31–33 and 52.

[13] A/HRC/23/36, paras. 26 and 79.

[14] Economic Commission for Europe, *The Aarhus Convention: an implementation guide* (New York/Geneva, 2000) p. 19.

[15] A/HRC/19/36, para. 12.

[16] A/HRC/27/29, paras. 22–30.

[17] A/HRC/17/27, paras. 60–66.

[18] Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, para. 4.

should never be affected.[19] Several international human rights mechanisms have emphasized that limitations should remain the exception rather than the rule.[20]

15. Limiting political participation on the grounds of intellectual or psychosocial impairment and the imposition of linguistic requirements for candidates for public office or the automatic disenfranchisement of detainees, convicted felons or people under guardianship have been found by human rights mechanisms to constitute unreasonable and discriminatory restrictions on the exercise of political and public participation rights.[21]

A. General challenges to participation in political and public affairs

Shrinking of the democratic space

16. Lack of political will or deliberate strategies to monopolize decision-making by those in power are among the main challenges to the realization of participation rights. In many instances, laws are enacted and applied arbitrarily to deny participation and intimidation and persecution are employed to pressure individuals to decide in a particular way.[22] In many countries, persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights face threats, harassment and insecurity, including when advocating for the right to participate in political and public affairs. The absence of free, pluralistic and independent media also jeopardizes the realization of participation in political and public affairs, since the media can be crucial in making citizens aware of their rights.

17. The shrinking of the democratic space has also been considered by human rights experts as threatening the full enjoyment of civil and political rights and resulting in ordinary people's lives being changed without their input and against their will.[23] Some States impose not only legal but also practical barriers to participation, notably by restricting the Internet and the flow of information online through increasingly sophisticated means. Mass surveillance, the interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data is another chilling factor on public participation, especially when those measures target political dissidents.[24]

General decline in traditional forms of political participation

18. It has been noted by some organizations that voter turnout at general elections in established democracies has declined steadily over a number of decades in the population as a whole,[25] with youth absenteeism being the highest.[26] Many States are also experiencing declining levels of membership in political parties and interest groups. Election results do

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[19] See, for example, Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 27 (1999) on freedom of movement (art. 12), paras. 11–18.

[20] See, for example, A/HRC/20/27, para. 16; and A/66/290, paras. 12 and 17.

[21] Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, paras. 10 and 15; and A/HRC/27/29, paras. 32 and 33; also CRPD/C/TUN/CO/1, para. 35; and CRPD/C/ESP/CO/1, para. 47.

[22] See the statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on "Inclusion and the right to participate in public life", 10 December 2012, available at http://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12865&LangID=E.

[23] A/HRC/25/55, para. 59; also "'Shrinking' spaces for citizens threatened democracy, human rights experts tell Third Committee as it considers country reports", United Nations press release, 28 October 2014 (GA/SHC/4112).

[24] A/HRC/27/37, para. 14.

[25] International IDEA, *Voter turnout since 1945: a global report* (Stockholm, 2002), p. 85.

[26] See contribution from the Organization for Security and Cooperatin in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE-ODIHR), pp. 8–9.

not always correspond to the wishes of the electorate and political parties around the world have struggled to effectively address economic and other issues of primary interest, leaving individuals feeling disillusioned with what they see as increasingly empty campaign slogans.[27] This lack of trust in political parties, owing notably to democratic shortcomings in their internal structures, has negatively translated into a lower level of public trust in State institutions.

Structural inequalities

19. Some individuals or groups are often denied the opportunity to participate in the conduct of public affairs because of socioeconomic inequalities. Individuals and groups concerned are confronted with a vicious circle: the greater the inequality, the less the participation; the less the participation, the greater the inequality. This perpetuates the privilege of the elite who may be the only ones able to influence formal and informal processes directly.[28]

20. Lack of decision-making power is a universal and basic characteristic of underrepresented and marginalized groups. Their right to participate in political and public affairs is hampered by multiple compounding obstacles. Discrimination and stigma, poverty and mistrust of authorities all limit the possibilities and incentives for individuals belonging to such groups to participate fully in society and make them particularly vulnerable to corruption or co-option.[29]

21. While the general right to participate in political and public affairs is a prerequisite of democracy, it is not, in itself, sufficient. Processes need to be put in place to ensure that all segments of society are able to influence agenda-setting and decision-making. Pro forma participatory processes only reinforce existing power structures and the feeling of exclusion.[30]

22. In some cases, private corporations and lobby groups take precedence over other less-resourced and less-organized voices. The Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order recently denounced secret negotiations of free trade and investment agreements as being a threat to human rights since they exclude key stakeholder groups from the process. He warned that the reality of economic, political and military imbalance leads to pressures on the weak that have little choice but to bend to various forms of coercion threats, sanctions or carrot-and-stick practices.[31]

B. Challenges affecting women and specific groups

23. Various social groups face specific challenges and discrimination. Intersecting and compound forms of discrimination have an especially devastating effect on the right to participate in political and public affairs. Roma women, for example, have been denied access to political and public participation rights on the grounds of their minority status, citizenship and gender. People living in poverty experience discrimination, not only on the grounds of poverty itself, but also due to membership in other disadvantaged groups, such as indigenous peoples, non-nationals or people living with HIV/AIDS.

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[27] A/HRC/24/38, para. 16.
[28] A/HRC/23/36, para. 14.
[29] Ibid., paras. 12 and 13.
[30] A/HRC/23/36, para. 72.
[31] A/HRC/24/38, para. 27; also OHCHR, "Secret negotiations on trade treaties, a threat to human rights", press release, 23 April 2015, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15883&LangID=E.

Women

24. In its general recommendation No. 23 (1997) on political and public life, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women identified a number of barriers to the equal participation of women in political and public life, including traditional cultural values and religious beliefs, absence of social services, violence against women, women's economic dependence on men, negative societal attitudes towards women and harmful gender stereotyping. The Committee further noted that women were excluded from top-ranking positions in Government, the civil service, public administration, the judiciary and justice systems. As of 1 May 2015, the average proportion of women in parliaments worldwide was a mere 22.1 per cent.[32]

25. The Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice identified other obstacles to women's participation in political and public affairs, such as unwillingness of political parties to place women in realistic positions on their candidates lists; the fact that women tend to have fewer resources than men for election campaigns; attacks, threats and sexual harassment against women candidates; and non-recognition of the right of peaceful assembly and freedom of association. At the same time, women who are outspoken as leaders, community workers and politicians often face harassment and stigmatization, as they are perceived as undermining traditional family values.[33] Furthermore, women human rights defenders are exposed to gender-specific threats and violence, including gender-based verbal abuse, sexual abuse or rape, intimidation and murder.[34]

Indigenous peoples

26. In its advice No. 2 (2011) on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making (see A/HRC/18/42, annex), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples notes that indigenous peoples are among the most excluded, marginalized and disadvantaged social groups in the world. Discrimination against indigenous peoples has had a negative impact on their ability to freely determine the direction that their own communities should take as well as their ability to have control over natural resources and to participate in decision-making with regard to matters that affect their human rights, including legislation.

27. In her 2014 annual report, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples identified several obstacles that affect the ability of indigenous peoples to fully enjoy their right to participate in political and public affairs, including the failure or reluctance of governments to recognize indigenous peoples; challenges in the development of practical implementation measures; ongoing negative attitudes towards indigenous peoples on the part of broader societies in which they live; and social and economic conditions preventing the full exercise of indigenous peoples' human rights.[35]

Minorities

28. The Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities affirms the right of minorities to participate effectively in cultural, religious, social, economic and public life.[36] Yet, such persons remain underrepresented in the political and public processes and governing institutions in most

[32] See www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm.
[33] A/HRC/23/50, paras. 53–76.
[34] A/HRC/25/55, para. 99.
[35] See A/HRC/27/52, para. 11.
[36] E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/2005/2, paras. 42–44.

countries. They are either actively or intentionally restricted from participation or there is a lack of political will to dismantle structural barriers to their full participation.[37]

29. Institutional discrimination can lead to multiple disfranchisements. For example, in many countries there is evidence of overrepresentation of minorities in the criminal justice system. Coupled with restrictions on the right of prisoners to vote, this has a disproportionate impact on the realization of the right of minority groups to participate in political and public affairs.[38] In many cases, minorities also face systemic discrimination in access to civil registration and identity documentation, which further impedes the realization of their right to participate.

Persons with disabilities

30. Some persons with disabilities are unable to participate fully in political and public affairs owing to their legal status, lack of access to information and prejudicial attitudes. In its general comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law (art. 12), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, noted that restrictions to legal capacity have been used to exclude persons with disabilities from political participation, especially the right to vote. Some States have an automatic or quasi-automatic exclusion provision in their legislation, denying the right to political participation for all people under a protective measure, regardless of their actual level of functional ability.[39]

31. Furthermore, even when there are no legal obstacles to participation of persons with disabilities, such participation is often hampered by an inhospitable environment and practical restrictions, such as inaccessible polling stations, lack of information, campaign material in accessible formats and a general high level of prejudice.[40]

Other vulnerable groups

32. Non-citizens, including migrants, refugees and stateless persons seldom have a voice in the public and political affairs of their country of residence. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants noted that groups of migrant origin were frequently underrepresented in the political process even when most of their members were nationals, and that effective citizenship depends on structural opportunities for participation and widespread disposition to use them.[41]

33. Discriminatory requirements or overly restrictive conditions for obtaining citizenship often impede effective participation. In many States, citizenship is unduly denied to minorities, long-term residents, foreign family members of citizens, stateless persons and other groups. Non-citizens, migrants, and refugees are also frequently denied participation in the public and political affairs of their countries of origin, which creates a double disfranchisement.[42]

34. Homeless persons and internally displaced persons live on the margins of society and often face discrimination and lack of access to information. In addition, administrative

[37] See A/HRC/13/25, para. 6, and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009.
[38] See CCPR/C/USA/CO/3/Rev.1, para. 35.
[39] A/HRC/19/36, para. 38.
[40] See contribution from the International Disability Alliance.
[41] See A/HRC/17/33, para. 65.
[42] Ibid., paras. 65–69.

restrictions, such as proof of residence or identity documents requirements, are likely to prevent them from exercising their right to vote.[43]

35. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals around the world face multiple obstacles to assert their right to participate in the conduct of public affairs including as a result of discrimination, stigma, violence, legal sanctions and arbitrary restrictions on their freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.[44] In addition, since identity documents are a pre-requisite to effective enjoyment of many human rights, including electoral rights, transgender persons who are unable to obtain identity documentation that reflects their preferred gender are de facto disfranchised.[45]

IV. Best practices and experiences with respect to the right to participate in political and public affairs

36. This section compiles best practices and experiences as reported by States, as well as from other sources, on different forms of political and public participation. Public participation processes have a number of benefits, including improved quality of policy and legislative decisions that are reflective of real needs and enriched with firsthand experience and expertise; enhanced potential for their successful implementation; and ultimately, increased public trust in State institutions.[46]

A. Right to vote and to be elected

37. The features of electoral systems, including candidate lists, district size and threshold levels, can have a major impact on inclusiveness and on the number of persons from underrepresented groups elected to office.[47] Ghana reported that its Representation of the Peoples Law provided for dividing the country into smaller political units to facilitate public participation. In an effort to facilitate voting for all individuals concerned, many States have adopted alternative ways of voting, such as mobile polling stations, postal voting, and advance voting. Australia deploys remote mobile polling teams across the country — by road, air and sea — so that people in remote areas, including indigenous communities, can vote. Poland created separate electoral districts at hospitals, social welfare facilities, detention facilities and students' halls of residence.

38. Electronic voting, if accessible and when guaranteeing the secrecy of the ballot, may also contribute to breaking down the barriers hindering political participation, notably of persons with disabilities, and to increasing turnout. In Estonia, all voters can vote electronically in any election from their homes or another location anywhere in the world. The electronic voting website also provides support for persons with visual impairments.

39. Many States have adopted quotas for underrepresented groups to attenuate conditions that perpetuate substantive inequalities. In recent years, gender quotas have been introduced in countries where women historically had limited participation in politics, as in

[43] Human Rights Committee, general comment No. 25, para. 11; see also contribution from International Organization for Migration, pp. 2–3.

[44] A/HRC/29/23, paras. 48–49, 60–63.

[45] See contribution from the Legal Resources Centre; and A/HRC/29/23, paras. 69 and 70.

[46] See contributions from the European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law and International IDEA.

[47] See contribution from United Nations Department of Political Affairs/Electoral Assistance Division. See also International IDEA, *Overcoming Political Exclusion: Strategies for marginalized groups to successfully engage in political decision-making* (Stockholm, 2013), p. 16.

Afghanistan and Jordan. Quotas work best when accompanied by sanctions if they are not respected and when they are closely monitored by independent bodies, including national electoral bodies and human rights institutions.[48] Once elected, it is crucial that individuals belonging to marginalized groups have equal opportunity to exercise power and authority.[49] This can be partly achieved through training in political debate and negotiation techniques and confidence-building measures.[50]

B. Participation in the conduct of public affairs

40. Full and effective participation in political and public affairs is best ensured when it rests on a solid legal basis. Hungary, Lithuania, Romania and Bulgaria have adopted laws on public participation, which require government officials to consult those affected and to take their views into consideration when making decisions. The Finnish Constitution states that public institutions must promote all possibilities for individuals to participate in social matters and to influence the decisions that affect them. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the 1994 Law of Popular Participation has enabled several initiatives emanating from the communities to translate into municipal public policies.[51]

41. Exercise of the right to participation further depends on transparency and on access to complete information. Information that is free of charge, relevant, up-to-date, understandable and made available well in advance of any participatory process enables individuals and communities to make informed choices.[52] Poland has adopted several laws obliging State institutions to publish all draft laws and regulations that are being considered by the Government.[53] In Greece, every municipality has the obligation to have an official website on which all decisions issued by the municipal organs are posted. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Freedom of Information Act (2000) entitles any person to make a request for information to a public authority, which has to convey the information no later than 12 days following the date of receipt of the request.[54] In some States, including Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland and France, access to the Internet is recognized as a right.[55] The right to information is best guaranteed when it is made available in a manner accessible to the most disadvantaged, taking into account the constraints they suffer, including illiteracy, language barriers and the "digital divide". In Argentina, indigenous peoples have dedicated radio and television stations, which broadcast information in their languages.

42. Several States have put in place consultative mechanisms which involve organizations of underrepresented groups in the development of legislation and policies. Georgia indicated that it also sought international expertise in that regard. Norway created a contact committee for immigrants and the authorities, which advises the Government on the views of persons with an immigrant background with regard to State policy. Bulgaria established an agency for persons with disabilities, which participates in the drafting of regulatory acts that affect them. The Czech Government has a number of advisory bodies (relating, for instance, to Roma, national minorities, gender equality and elderly people)

[48] A/HRC/23/50, paras. 37–40.
[49] See International IDEA and Kofi Annan Foundation, *Deepening Democracy: A strategy for improving the integrity of elections worldwide* (Stockholm/Geneva, 2012) para. 65.
[50] See International IDEA, *Overcoming Political Exclusion*, p. 83 (see footnote 47).
[51] See contribution from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
[52] A/HRC/23/36, paras. 60–64.
[53] Ibid., p. 23.
[54] See contribution from the European Centre for Not-for-Profit Law, p. 13.
[55] A/HRC/17/27, para. 65.

that bring together representatives of public administration, local governments, the non-governmental sector and academia. In Estonia, ministries must include representatives of civil society organizations in the preparation of decisions, draft laws and development plans. Croatia recently used a highly participatory consultation process to develop a strategy for the creation of an enabling environment for civil society, and included key stakeholders from the earliest stages of the consultations so that interested groups could submit comments and proposals. Various methods of inclusion were used, from facilitated meetings and working groups to electronic consultations and surveys.[56]

43. Participation shows best results when meaningful decisions, including those on resource allocation, are tabled for consideration and discussion. The Constitution of the Dominican Republic foresees an approbatory referendum for future constitutional amendments that concern fundamental rights. In Germany, some federal states have engaged in a broad and inclusive process to ensure that citizens participate in public sector reform, while several cities have introduced participatory budgeting. Poland reported that it had introduced participatory budgeting at the municipal level. Residents are invited to vote on projects and those which receive the highest number of votes are selected. In Greece, municipalities and regions may establish committees composed of civil society representatives, which are then consulted by local government before it draws up the budget and social policy measures.

44. Participation mechanisms are most effective when they are premised on empowerment and aimed at building the capacity, social capital, confidence, rights awareness and knowledge of individuals.[57] This includes strengthening skills and capacity of the public and of officials, and devoting resources to long-term, sustainable participatory mechanisms. Several States, such as Estonia, have adopted manuals for public institutions to initiate or strengthen participatory practices in the preparation of draft laws, policies and development plans.

45. It is equally important that the right to participation be enforceable by law and that the denial of participation be open to challenge through the courts at low cost. The Austrian Ombudsman Board guarantees legal assistance for all individuals, free of charge and by phone, e-mail or through the electronic complaint form on the institution's website. The Czech Republic offers a system of free or low-cost legal assistance to victims of discrimination and other human rights violations.

C. Right to equal access to public service

46. Several States reported treating all persons in an equal manner based on the principle of open competition for entering public service. However, open competition alone, in situations of deep-rooted structural inequality, may in fact constitute discrimination. In that regard, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination stated that to treat in an equal manner persons or groups whose situations are objectively different will constitute discrimination in effect, as will the unequal treatment of persons whose situations are objectively the same.[58]

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[56] Tina Divjak and Goran Forbici, *Public participation in decision-making process: international analysis of the legal framework with a collection of good practices* (Ljubljana, December 2014), p. 60.

[57] A/HRC/23/36, para. 71.

[58] See Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, general recommendation No. 32 (2009) on the meaning and scope of special measures in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, para. 8.

47. Australia stated that public service agencies were required to establish diversity programmes, including affirmative measures, to ensure that the diversity of the Australian community was reflected in strategies designed to attract, recruit and retain employees. The Republic of Korea uses a separate recruitment process for some underrepresented groups, while Poland indicated that if a recruitment process resulted in the shortlisting of a person with disabilities, she or he would be considered first. Paraguay and Turkey established, by law, a minimum quota of 5 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, for the recruitment of persons with disabilities to public service positions. Uruguay has established a public employment programme with specific quotas for persons of African descent, persons with disabilities and transgender persons.

D. Other forms of political and public participation

48. A number of States reported on citizens' initiatives which, when supported by a certain number of signatories, can become legislative proposals to national or municipal institutions. Finland reported that the initiative on legislation on same-sex marriage was most successful, and was subsequently approved by Parliament in 2014. Ireland established a parliamentary online petitions system, which enables members of the public to take their policy concerns directly to Parliament and influence the parliamentary agenda. Some States, such as Poland, Switzerland, the United States of America and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, provide for recall elections, whereby a predefined minimum number of voters can trigger a referendum to remove an elected official from office before the end of his or her term.

49. In recent years, States have used information and communication technologies to promote more efficient service delivery and allow greater public access to information. In 2014, for the first time, all 193 Member States of the United Nations had national websites, which significantly increased transparency and access to information. The United Nations E-Government Survey 2014 ranked the Republic of Korea, Australia and Singapore as the countries with the most transparent and efficient e-Governments.

50. The rise of information and communication technologies has also affected the ways in which citizens perceive political participation and democracy.[59] Online campaigns and protests organized through the Internet have provided new avenues for political mobilization. In Sierra Leone, election observers use mobile phones and the Internet to report irregularities during elections. Social media have often been cited as having played an important role during the 2011 uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East.[60]

E. Best practices relating to women and specific groups

Women

51. States shared best practices on the integration of women in public decision-making. Bahrain established the Supreme Council for Women, which expresses views and makes decisions on issues relating to the status of women and implements programmes for the political empowerment of women. Mozambique involved women's groups in the revision of its land policy framework, which contributed to the inclusion of important legal provisions to uphold gender equality.[61]

[59] See contribution from OSCE-ODIHR, p. 9.
[60] A/HRC/27/33, para. 23; and A/HRC/17/27, para. 2.
[61] See contribution from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, p. 2.

52. Several States reported that they encouraged political parties to adopt effective measures to ensure that women are placed in top positions on candidates lists in order to increase their chances of being fully represented in senior positions in party structures. Other States have established temporary special measures, envisaged by article 4 (1) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, such as quotas, which require political parties to include a certain percentage of women in their candidates lists. Legislation in Albania provides for the representation of at least 30 per cent of the underrepresented sex in all government and political bodies, including all decision-making positions in public administration, the judiciary, the police force, peacekeeping missions and senior political and electoral processes. The Electoral Code of Panama requires that nomination lists of political parties presented for primaries and internal elections include at least 50 per cent women. Contributions also signaled the importance of including issues relating to women in election campaigns and platforms and to appoint women to senior decision-making roles in the executive, legislative and judiciary.

53. A number of States indicated that they had codified gender parity in electoral lists, notably through a "zipper" requirement for alternating women and men candidates on party lists.[62] Some States, such as Tunisia, issue sanctions when parties do not comply with the legal measures aimed at ensuring gender equality, such as removing the party's electoral list from the ballot.

54. Public funding can also be an incentive to further gender equality, for example, where allocation of public funds to political parties is made contingent on compliance with requirements for women's participation. In Georgia, political parties with at least 30 per cent women on their candidates lists receive a 30 per cent higher financial assistance than other parties. The Moldovan Parliament approved in the first reading a draft law on financing of political parties and election campaigns, which makes funding contingent on the number of women who obtain elective mandates. In Ireland, political parties that do not select at least 30 per cent women candidates for the general election face losing half of their State funding. In Honduras, 10 per cent of the public funding allocated to each political party is to be used exclusively for the training and advancement of women in politics.

Indigenous peoples

55. Indigenous peoples' right to participate in the conduct of public affairs should be guaranteed in good faith and through the representatives that they have chosen in accordance with their own procedures.[63] Norway reached an agreement on consultation procedures between the Central Government and the Sámediggi (Sami Parliament). The State authorities shall, as early as possible, inform Sámediggi about relevant initiatives that may directly affect the Sami, including on issues such as language, religion, preservation of cultural heritage, education, land ownership and land-use fisheries, mineral exploration, extraction activities, biodiversity and nature conservation. Argentina established the Indigenous Participation Council to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in all matters affecting their rights.[64]

56. In applying International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) in their judgements, several national and regional tribunals have found that the non-participation by indigenous groups in consultation or decision-

[62] A/68/184, para. 37.

[63] See Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, arts. 5, 18 and 19, and ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

[64] For other best practices with regard to the right of indigenous peoples to participate in the conduct of public affairs, see A/HRC/18/42.

making processes violated their rights and as such, a broad set of measures have been judicially ordered, from invalidation of approval for Government projects, especially in the mining, forestry and energy sectors, to remedies for those affected.[65] In March 2010, the Ecuadorian Constitutional Court declared that mining exploitation in the territories of indigenous, afro-Ecuadorean and Montubian communities, peoples and nations, must always be subjected to prior consultations with the relevant communities, as provided for in the Constitution. In September 2014, a federal judge of the United States of America ordered the state of Alaska to translate information on early voting and initiatives relating to the November 2014 ballot into Yup'ik dialects for Alaska indigenous voters with limited English.[66]

Minorities

57. States ensure participation of minorities by different means. In addition to electoral systems based on proportional representation, measures such as seats reserved for minorities in elected bodies and favorable delimitation of the constituencies contribute to supporting the political participation of minorities.[67] Kazakhstan reported that it made electoral materials accessible to linguistic minorities by translating them into the minority languages.

58. Some States reported that minorities benefited from lower thresholds to enter elected bodies. In Slovenia, the electoral law provides for a separate election for a Roma representative in municipalities that have a significant Roma population if, during the general local elections, no Roma representative succeeded in securing enough votes to be elected. Additional measures include the devolution of certain powers to minorities by means of a federal or autonomous arrangement; establishment of an informal council of minority representatives or a statutory body, which is consulted by the executive on matters of concern to the minority.[68]

59. Once representatives of minorities have obtained a seat in Parliament, their position may be further reinforced by certain measures. In particular, they may be given special procedural rights with regard to questions pertaining to minority issues, which may range from the right to initiate new legislation to vetoing bills on minority issues.[69] In Belgium, the Assembly and the Senate are divided into language groups for certain issues, which then have to be decided upon by a majority in each group and an overall majority of two thirds of votes.[70]

Persons with disabilities

60. Some States, such as Ecuador, reported that they conducted information campaigns and awareness-raising initiatives to promote the participation of persons with disabilities in political and public life. Many States have also adopted a wide range of legislative, policy and practical measures to remove existing physical barriers and improve the accessibility of voting stations. Belarus indicated that blind persons are provided with information materials about candidates in Braille and that the ballot papers have Braille stencils and

[65] See ILO, *Application of Convention No. 169 by Domestic and International Courts in Latin America – A casebook* (2009).

[66] Associated Press, "Judge rules in Alaska native voting rights case", *The New York Times*, 22 September 2014.

[67] Council of Europe, *The Participation of Minorities in Decision-Making Processes*, Expert study, November 2000 (DH-MIN(2000)1), p. 6.

[68] A/65/287, para. 41.

[69] Council of Europe, *The Participation of Minorities*, p. 11 (see footnote 67).

[70] Ibid., p. 11.

voters with poor vision are provided with magnifying lenses. Those measures enable voters with visual impairments to vote independently. States also provided information on the measures adopted to allow persons with disabilities to be accompanied by a person of their choice when casting their vote. Some States reported that they organized regular training opportunities for all officials responsible for elections on how to interact with persons with different impairments and how to support them in the exercise of the right to vote.

61. One of the best ways to guarantee that the measures adopted are appropriate is to involve people with disabilities in their design. Norway indicated that organizations representing persons with disabilities participated in the testing of electoral equipment and that, at the general election in 2009, there was no significant difference in voter participation among people with disabilities and the general population.

62. Lifting all restrictions on the political participation of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities is another crucial step to the full implementation of right to political and public participation.[71] Austria lifted all restrictions on the right of persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected; persons with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities are allowed to exercise their political rights on an equal basis with others.[72]

Other vulnerable groups

63. A growing number of States allow some form of local electoral involvement of non-citizens within their territory.[73] Norway reported providing grants to immigrant organizations to contribute to participation, dialogue and interaction. A number of countries have developed systems of consultation with migrant communities at the national and local levels. In Italy, several municipalities have set up consultative councils for foreigners, who represent either a country or a geographical area.[74] Portugal appointed a high commissioner for immigrants and ethnic minorities, whose role is to consult immigrant organizations on proposed draft legislation and on the implementation of laws that have a direct impact on them.[75]

64. The Committee on the Rights of the Child called on governments to make renewed efforts to ensure that children's views are heard and taken into account.[76] A positive initiative in that regard is the Children in Action project that was launched in South Africa to include children's participation in parliamentary hearings and public debates.[77] In accordance with its Constitution, which establishes the right of children and adolescents to social participation and to be consulted in matters affecting them, Ecuador created an advisory council on childhood and adolescence, in 2007. As regards young voters, in 2012, Argentina lowered its voting age from 18 to 16, thus allowing close to a million and a half young people to be included in the electoral roll. Other countries that allow 16 year olds to

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[71] A/HRC/19/36, paras. 39, 69.

[72] For other examples of best practices regarding the right of persons with disabilities to participate in the conduct of public affairs, see A/HRC/19/36.

[73] Including Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Denmark, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden and certain Swiss cantons where foreign residents have the right to vote and to be elected at the local level.

[74] Council of Europe, *Political and social participation of immigrants through consultative bodies*, 1999 (CDMG (99) 21), p. 46.

[75] Ibid., p. 56.

[76] OHCHR, "UN experts urge real dialogue with children about their rights" press release, 23 September 2014, available at www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15084&LangID=E.

[77] John Wall and Anandini Dar, "Children's political representation: the right to make a difference", *International Journal of Children's Rights*, vol. 19, No. 4 (2011), p. 377.

vote include Austria, Cuba, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Egypt adopted a legal quota, which provides for one quarter of the seats on the local council to be allocated to youth under 35.

65. In order to overcome obstacles to the effective protection of the right of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons to participate in political and public affairs, it is crucial for States to combat violence, repeal discriminatory laws and ensure that anti-discrimination legislation includes sexual orientation and gender identity among prohibited grounds and also protects intersex persons from discrimination.[78] Fiji recently added a clause in its Constitution prohibiting discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Anti-discrimination laws have also been strengthened in several States, including Australia, Chile, Cuba, Georgia, Malta, Moldova and Montenegro. Furthermore, Brazil, Canada, France, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay are combatting violence and stigmatization through anti-hate crime laws, national action plans and public education campaigns aimed at countering homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination.[79]

V. Conclusions and recommendations

66. **Despite its key importance as a human right in itself and as an enabler of the enjoyment of other human rights, the right to participate in political and public affairs continues to face obstacles to its full realization. Unreasonable and discriminatory restrictions, be they on the grounds of race, colour, sex, disability, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, illegitimately limit the exercise of this right.**

67. **Insufficient political will to allow full public participation and legal or practical measures to discourage participation and restrict the democratic space constitute the main challenges to the implementation of the right to participate in political and public affairs. Existing structural inequalities, such as poverty, and a decline in traditional forms of political participation are additional challenges to political and public participation.**

68. **Discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination, and group-specific challenges prevent the full participation of women and marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, members of minorities, persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Such discrimination ranges from gender stereotyping to non-recognition of indigenous peoples, from lack of representation of members of minorities in governing institutions to physical barriers that render polling stations inaccessible to persons with disabilities.**

69. **To be fully enjoyed, the right to participate in political and public affairs requires the exercise of a number of other internationally protected rights, such as the freedoms of opinion and expression (including access to information), freedoms of association and of peaceful assembly. Those rights must be guaranteed to all, including non-citizens, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons.**

70. **States have taken a number of measures to address the above-mentioned challenges and to increase participation in political and public affairs. With regard to the right to vote and to be elected, several States have adopted alternative ways of voting, such as electronic voting, mobile polling stations, postal voting and advance voting to increase participation at elections. A growing number of States have**

[78] A/HRC/29/23, paras. 19, 78 and 79.

[79] See also A/HRC/29/23, paras. 71–75.

extended limited voting rights to non-citizens and some allow non-citizens to stand as candidates in local elections and be members of the boards of self-governing bodies. Quotas may increase access to elected positions for women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender individuals and members of minorities. Quotas work best when they are monitored and accompanied by sanctions for non-compliance.

71. Full and effective participation in political and public affairs is best ensured when the right itself, combined with the right to equality and non-discrimination, is recognized in national legislation and when limitations to this right are exceptional and justified by reasonable and objective criteria. The right to participate in political and public affairs should be enforceable by law and its denial should be open to judicial challenge. Appropriate remedies should be available if a violation is established.

72. Legal frameworks that include the explicit right of individuals and groups to participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of any policy, programme or strategy that affects their rights, at the local, national and international levels are most conducive to the full realization of the right to participate in political and public affairs.

73. Exercise of the right to participate in political and public affairs further depends on transparency and on access to full, updated and understandable information. This information should be made available free of charge and with sufficient time in advance. Participation in political and public affairs is strengthened when important decisions, such as those on budget and resource allocation, are open for discussion. Participation mechanisms should be premised on empowerment and capacity-building.

74. Equal access to public service, as a component of the right to political and public participation, can be promoted through diversity programmes, separate recruitments processes or affirmative measures.

75. Public life has also been enriched through new forms of participation, such as citizens' initiatives and e-Government, and through the use of information and communication technologies.

76. As regards participation of women in political and public affairs, States reported encouraging political parties to adopt effective measures to ensure that women are placed in top positions on candidates lists so as to have better chances of being elected as well as fully represented in senior positions in the structures of the parties. It is also important to include issues relating to women in election campaigns and platforms and to appoint women to senior decision-making roles in the executive, legislative and judiciary. A number of States referred to the "zipper" requirement for electoral lists, which alternate women and men candidates, and to State funding to political parties being contingent on compliance with requirements for increased women's representation.

77. With respect to indigenous peoples, measures to increase their participation include making information available in indigenous languages and consultation with indigenous bodies. In the event that consultation does not take place, various measures have been judicially ordered, from invalidation of approval for Government projects, especially in the mining, forestry and energy sectors, to remedies for those affected.

78. States also referred to a number of best practices relating to participation in political and public affairs by members of minorities. Some States reported on lowered thresholds for minorities to join elected bodies; others mentioned the system of seats reserved for minorities in elected bodies, favorable delimitation of the constituencies, or the creation of a council of minority representatives. Minorities in

Parliament may also be given special procedural rights, such as the right to initiate or to veto bills regarding issues that directly affect them.

79. Examples of measures adopted by States to implement the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public affairs include information campaigns; the removal of existing physical barriers; the availability of information and ballot papers in accessible formats, including through the use of new technologies; and the involvement of persons with disabilities in the design and testing of electoral equipment. Training sessions for election officials and the lifting of restrictions on the political participation of persons with psychosocial or intellectual disabilities are also crucial.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-ninth session
Agenda items 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Communications report of Special Procedures*

Communications sent, 1 March to 31 May 2015; Replies received, 1 May to 31 July 2015

Joint report by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context; the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent; the Working Group on arbitrary detention; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; the Special Rapporteur on the right to education; the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea; the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; the

* The present report is circulated as received.

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Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; the Independent Expert on the situation on human rights in the Sudan; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice: and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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Abbreviations

Adequate housing	Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context
African Descent	Working Group of Experts on people of African descent
Arbitrary detention	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Belarus	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus
Burundi	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi
Business enterprises	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia
Central Africa	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights
Cultural Rights	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
Democratic and equitable international order	Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
Disability	Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
Disappearances	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Discrimination against women	Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice
DPR Korea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Education	Special Rapporteur on the right to education
Environment	Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
Eritrea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
Extreme poverty	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Food	Special Rapporteur on the right to food
Foreign debt	Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights
Freedom of expression	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
Freedom of religion	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
Haiti	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti
Health	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
Human rights defenders	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Independence of judges and lawyers	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers
Indigenous peoples	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

Internally displaced persons	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
International Solidarity	Independent Expert on Human Rights and International solidarity
Iran	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mali	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
Mercenaries	Working Group on the use of mercenaries
Migrants	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
Minority issues	Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Myanmar	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
OPT	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
Older persons	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
Racism	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
Sale of children	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
Slavery	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery
Somalia	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia
Sudan	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
Summary executions	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
Terrorism	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
Torture	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Toxic waste	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
Trafficking	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
Truth justice, reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence
Unilateral coercive measures	Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
Violence against women	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
Water and Sanitation	Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

Other abbreviations

AL	Letter of allegation
JAL	Joint letter of allegation
JUA	Joint urgent appeal
OL	Other letter
UA	Urgent appeal

I. Introduction

1. Special procedures are mandated by the Human Rights Council to report to it on their activities (see Appendix).

2. In 2009, the sixteenth annual meeting of special procedures mandate holders decided that a joint communications report would be prepared (cf. A/HRC/12/47, para 24-26), with this decision being reconfirmed by the seventeenth annual meeting of special procedures in 2010 in order to avoid duplication, rationalize documentation, allow examination of cross cutting issues and ensure that the content of communications and any follow-up would feed into the universal periodic review mechanism more effectively. Mandate holders decided that the report should contain summaries of communications, and statistical information (A/HRC/15/44, para. 26-27).

3. The Outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to maintain information on special procedures in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner, and encourages the use of modern information technology to reduce the circulation of paper (A/HRC/RES/16/21, Annex, para. 29 and 60).

4. Short summaries of allegations communicated to the respective State or other entity are included in the report, and the communications sent and responses received are accessible electronically through hyperlinks. Communications are reproduced in the language in which they were sent. Replies received in Arabic, Chinese or Russian are included with translations into English, where available.

5. This report covers all urgent appeals, letters of allegations and other letters sent by special procedures mandate holders between 1 March and 31 May 2015 and replies received between 1May and 31 July 2015. Communications sent before 1 March 2015 are reported in A/HRC/29/50, A/HRC/28/85, A/HRC/27/72, A/HRC/26/21, A/HRC/25/74, A/HRC/24/21, A/HRC/23/51, A/HRC/22/67, A/HRC/22/67 corr.1 and corr.2, A/HRC/21/49, A/HRC/20/30, A/HRC/19/44 and A/HRC/18/51 respectively.

6. The report also includes replies received between 1 May and 31 July 2015, relating to communications sent by special procedures mandate holders before 1 March 2015. Some of these replies supplement information communicated earlier by the respective State.

7. The present report contains urgent appeals sent by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and joint urgent appeals sent by them together with other mandates. It does not contain other types of communications issued by these mandates, which are processed according to their own distinctive procedures, and are reported in the annual reports of these two working groups.

8. The names of some alleged victims have been obscured in order to protect their privacy and prevent further victimization. Names of victims who would otherwise have their identities protected are mentioned only when the concerned individual has expressly consented or requested to have his or her name in the public report. In the original communications, the full names of the alleged victims were provided to the Government concerned. Names of alleged perpetrators have systematically been darkened in State replies to preserve the presumption of innocence.

9. In preparing the statistics included in this report, uniform reporting periods have been used, reflecting all communications sent between 1 March and 31 May 2015, and responses received in relation to these communications up to 31July 2015.

Communications and replies by mandate

	Reporting period 1 March to 31 May 2015			Reporting period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2015		
Mandate	Communications sent	replied to by 31 July 2015	response rate	Communications sent	replied to by 31 July 2015	response rate
Adequate housing	6	1	17%	281	134	48%
African descent	5	1	20%	15	7	47%
Arbitrary detention (+)	20	12	60%	1.235	685	55%
Belarus**	1	1	100%	8	6	75%
Burundi*	0	0	0%	6	0	0%
Business enterprises	0	0	0%	28	16	57%
Cambodia	1	0	0%	23	4	17%
Cultural Rights	2	1	50%	34	24	71%
Democratic and equitable international order	0	0	0%	5	3	60%
Disability	6	4	67%	9	5	56%
Disappearances (+)	6	1	17%	296	131	44%
Discrimination against women in law and in practice	19	6	32%	137	64	47%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	7	1	14%
Education	0	0	0%	63	37	59%
Environment	0	0	0%	13	8	62%
Eritrea	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Extreme poverty	2	0	0%	43	29	67%
Food	0	0	0%	204	79	39%
Foreign debt	1	0	0%	14	9	64%
Freedom of expression	34	13	38%	2.331	1.215	52%
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	36	17	47%	740	434	59%
Freedom of religion	5	1	20%	386	225	58%
Haiti	0	0	0%	7	1	14%
Health	19	8	42%	407	229	56%
Human rights defenders	39	16	41%	2.621	1.471	56%
Independence of judges and lawyers	19	7	37%	1.010	530	52%

Mandate	Reporting period 1 March to 31 May 2015			Reporting period 1 June 2006 to 31 May 2015		
	Communications sent	replied to by 31 July 2015	response rate	Communications sent	replied to by 31 July 2015	response rate
Indigenous peoples	6	3	50%	319	190	60%
Internally displaced persons	0	0	0%	18	5	28%
Iran	2	0	0%	89	43	48%
Liberia	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Mercenaries	0	0	0%	65	24	37%
Migrants	7	3	43%	199	124	62%
Minority issues	7	1	14%	193	108	56%
Myanmar	4	2	50%	97	48	49%
Older persons	0	0	0%	1	1	100%
OPT	1	0	0%	24	3	13%
Racism	5	1	20%	104	60	58%
Sale of children	2	1	50%	49	19	39%
Slavery	1	0	0%	33	19	58%
Somalia	0	0	0%	11	1	9%
Sudan	3	0	0%	24	4	17%
Summary executions	31	15	48%	1.113	536	48%
Terrorism	6	1	17%	250	114	46%
Torture	35	13	37%	1.896	1.023	54%
Toxic waste	2	1	50%	43	27	63%
Trafficking	3	1	33%	70	41	59%
Truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-rec	3	1	33%	25	13	52%
Violence against women	8	5	63%	478	254	53%
Water and Sanitation	1	0	0%	55	34	62%

(*) mandate terminated; (**) mandate re-established in June 2012.

(+) These figures do not include communications on standard cases sent to Governments by the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Please note: Totals are higher than the actual number of communications sent or replies received in the given period, as many communications are sent jointly by two or more mandate holders.

II. Communications sent and replies received

A. Communications sent between 1 March and 31 May 2015 and replies received between 1 May and 31 July 2015

10. Communications are presented in chronological order. Copies of the full text of the communications sent and replies received may be accessed from the electronic version of this report available on the OHCHR website. Some names of individuals or other information have been rendered anonymous or otherwise unidentifiable.

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
02/03/2015 JAL	MNE 1/2015 **Montenegro**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;**	Allegations concerning the fast-tracked adoption of the revised Public Assembly Act, which seems to violate international human rights norms and standards. According to the information received, in December 2014, the Government of Montenegro adopted amendments to the Public Assembly Act (Act) which seem to excessively and disproportionately limit the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of expression. Specifically, the revised Act introduces, among others, blanket bans, geographical restrictions and de facto authorizations to hold assemblies. It also includes vague provisions, such as prohibiting peaceful assemblies that "aim to commit or incite others to commit violence". Information received suggests that this Act is currently undergoing a second process of reform which will reportedly be debated by Parliament at the end of 2015.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
04/03/2015 JUA	MEX 2/2015 **México**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Torture;**	Alegaciones sobre la detención de un periodista y activista social de origen maya. Según la información recibida el Sr. Pedro Canché habría recibido amenazas luego de haber publicado información y críticas contra la gestión de las autoridades locales. Se alega que el 11 de agosto de 2014 tuvieron lugar una serie de protestas y manifestaciones pacíficas contra el aumento del precio del agua, incluyendo "plantones" frente a la Comisión de Agua potable y alcantarillado (CAPA) que habrían presuntamente impedido el acceso a las instalaciones. El 30 de agosto de 2014, el Sr. Pedro Canché habría sido arrestado, luego de una investigación en su contra por su participación en las protestas en su calidad de periodista. El Sr. Pedro Canché seguiría detenido a la fecha bajo el cargo de sabotaje en el área de máxima seguridad del centro de detención municipal. Se alega que el Sr. Pedro Canché habría sido víctima de violencia y malos tratos en detención, con la aquiescencia de las autoridades, y que no habría recibido la atención médica adecuada.	08/04/2015
06/03/2015 JUA	IDN 2/2015 **Indonesia**	**Summary executions; Torture;**	Allegations concerning the risk of imminent execution of ten individuals, in majority foreign nationals, in violation of the right to life. According to the information received, the Indonesian authorities are planning to execute in the coming days at least ten individuals, including: Mr. Andrew Chan (Australian), Mr. Myuran Sukumaran (Australian), Mr Raheem Agbaje Salami (Nigerian), Mr. Zainal Abidin (Indonesian), Mr. Martin Anderson alias Belo (Ghanaian) and Mr. Rodrigo Gularte (Brazilian). All individuals have been sentenced to death for drug-trafficking. One of them, Mr. Gularte, has been diagnosed as having paranoid schizophrenia and bipolar disorder with psychotic characteristics. Concern is raised that the death penalty may be carried out for crimes which do not meet the threshold of "most serious crimes" as enshrined in international law and that the death penalty may be imposed on Mr. Gularte despite of his psychosocial disability.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
06/03/2015 JUA	MMR 2/2015 **Myanmar**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Myanmar;**	Allegations concerning threats of excessive use of force in the context of a peaceful assembly asking for amendments to the 2014 National Education Law. According to the information received, approximately 150 students joined by local citizens and Buddhist monks peacefully protested against the National Education Law on 2 March 2015 near the Aung Myay Bateman monastery in Northern Yangon. The protestors planned to march to Yangon the next day. On the morning of 3 March 2015, up to 1,000 members of security forces blocked the protestors from continuing their march and demanded that they disperse or face a crackdown. Serious concern is expressed that the State response may involve excessive use of force and violation of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of expression.	15/05/2015
06/03/2015 JAL	RUS 1/2015 **Russian Federation**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Summary executions;**	Allegations concerning the assassination of an opposition leader in Moscow, Russian Federation. According to the information received, on 27 February 2015, Mr. Boris Nemtsov, a prominent opposition leader, was shot dead by unknown assailants while walking over a bridge in central Moscow. The assassination took place three days before a scheduled large opposition demonstration which Mr. Nemtsov was set to lead. Mr. Nemtsov was previously arrested in connection with his role in peaceful protests and had been accused by State media and public officials of being an "enemy of Russia". The Government has opened an investigation into his death; however Government officials have made public judgments in relation to the killing that may prejudice the investigation.	20/05/2015
11/03/2015 JAL	IND 3/2015 **India**	**Discrimination against women; Health; Torture; Violence against women;**	Alleged existence of unsafe, substandard and unethical sterilisation camps resulting in medical complications and deaths of several women. According to the information received, on 8 and 10 November 2014, procedures performed in a sterilisation camp in the State of Chhattisgarh funded by the State Government of Chhattisgarh resulted in the deaths of 13 women and critical condition of 70 others. The procedures were reportedly performed without free and informed consent, in facilities of deplorable and unhygienic conditions, and with sub-standard clinical procedures. Women of low socio-economic standing were actively targeted and incentivised by the State Government of Chhattisgarh to undergo the sterilisation procedure, and there was a general lack of information regarding the consequences and risks of the sterilisation.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
11/03/2015 JAL	SDN 1/2015 **Sudan**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Sudan;**	Alleged deregistration of 14 associations in Sudan for contravening the Law on Cultural Groups of 1996 regulating associations. According to the information received, in January 2015, 14 associations, including Mahmoud Mohamed Taha Cultural Centre, National Civic Forum and Sudanese Writers Union, were deregistered for contravening the Law on Cultural Groups of 1996 regulating associations. Concerns are raised that the escalating trend of suppression of registered associations in Sudan may be precipitated by the general elections scheduled for April 2015 in an attempt to silence and intimidate critical voices.	
12/03/2015 JUA	FRA 2/2015 **France**	**Disability; Health;**	Suivi d'un appel urgent concernant des allégations de refus du droit à l'éducation et menaces d'institutionnalisation forcée d'un enfant autiste. Selon les informations reçues, depuis septembre 2014, cet enfant est déscolarisé et la seule réponse indiquée par les autorités compétentes est son placement dans un Institut Médico-Educatif (IME). L'inscription au collège du nouveau lieu de résidence de l'enfant aurait été refusée contrairement à la Loi du 11 février 2005, selon laquelle tout enfant présentant un handicap ou un trouble invalidant de la santé doit être inscrit dans l'un des établissements le plus proche de son domicile. De plus, le 18 février 2015, le juge du tribunal pour enfants aurait autorisé le placement de l'enfant au domicile de son père, qui aurait eu l'autorisation d'inscrire son fils en IME. La première communication a été envoyée le 22 décembre 2014, voir A/HRC/29/50, cas JUA FRA 4/2014.	27/03/2015
13/03/2015 JUA	MEX 3/2015 **México**	**Arbitrary detention; Health; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Indigenous peoples; Torture; Violence against women;**	Presunta detención arbitraria, malos tratos y situación de riesgo en detención debido a falta de tratamiento médico adecuado de una defensora de derechos humanos y líder de una comunidad indígena en el estado de Nayarit. De acuerdo con la información recibida, el día 21 de agosto de 2013 la Sra. Nestora Salgado García, dirigente de la comunidad indígena y coordinadora de la Policía Comunitaria en Olinalá, fue detenida y trasladada al Centro Federal de detención de Mujeres 'Noroeste', la cárcel de máxima seguridad de Nayarit. Posteriormente, la Sra. Salgado fue acusada del secuestro del representante legal municipal y los adolescentes. Se alega que hubo una supuesta falta de garantías del debido proceso, así como malos tratos a la detenida. Sra. Salgado está en riesgo ya que no está recibiendo el tratamiento médico adecuado. Se expresa preocupación por la presunta detención arbitraria, el arresto y la detención continuada de Sra. Salgado.	15/05/2015 15/05/2015 15/05/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
19/03/2015 UA	NIC 3/2015 **Nicaragua**	**Indigenous peoples;**	Alegaciones de falta de un proceso de consulta adecuado con el Gobierno Territorial Rama y Kriol en el contexto del desarrollo de infraestructura y transporte asociado con la construcción de un canal y la preocupación por los impactos en los derechos sustantivos de los pueblos indígenas afectados en relación con sus tierras, territorios y recursos, incluidos sus medios de subsistencia. El Gobierno Territorial publicaría su postura en relación con el Canal, pidiendo una modificación de la Ley 840, en consulta con los pueblos indígenas afectados y, una vez modificada la ley, un proceso de consulta apropiado para determinar las condiciones del uso del territorio del Gobierno Territorial Rama y Kriol para el proyecto. El Gobierno Tradicional propondría también la presencia de observadores en el proceso de consulta. Las autoridades del Gobierno Tradicional habrían presentado una petición y habrían solicitado medidas cautelares ante la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos, que siguen pendientes.	
19/03/2015 JUA	PAK 2/2015 **Pakistan**	**Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged torture and imminent execution of a Pakistani national who was a minor at the time of his conviction. According to the information received, Mr. Shafqat Hussain, who is currently detained in Karachi Central Prison, is scheduled to be executed on 19 March 2015. Mr. Hussain was reportedly 14 years old at the time of his trial and was convicted based on a forced confession he made after being subjected to torture for nine days by the police. He was sentenced to death for kidnapping and involuntary manslaughter. In the evening of 18 March 2015, the authorities announced a stay of execution. They also announced an inquiry into his age at the time of his conviction, and on the alleged torture he suffered during his interrogation. Grave concern is expressed at the imminent execution of Mr. Hussain, who reportedly was a minor at the time of the alleged crime, which may be in contravention of international human rights law, especially the stringent respect of due process and fair trial guarantees in cases where the death penalty may be imposed and the prohibition of torture and ill treatment.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
20/03/2015 JAL	ESP 5/2015 **Spain**	**Disability; Discrimination against women; Health;**	Presuntas restricciones del acceso a un aborto legal y seguro por parte de las menores y mujeres con capacidad legal modificada. Según las informaciones recibidas, la Proposición de Ley Orgánica 122/000195 para reforzar la protección de las menores y mujeres con capacidad modificada judicialmente en la interrupción voluntaria del embarazo, presentada ante la Mesa del Congreso de los Diputados el 18 de febrero de 2014, en caso de ser adoptada, limitaría el acceso al aborto a las menores de 16 y 17 años así como a las mujeres con capacidad modificada judicialmente privándolas de sus derechos de igualdad sexual y salud reproductiva y restringiendo indebidamente su derecho al más alto nivel de salud física y mental.	
23/03/2015 JAL	NIC 2/2015 **Nicaragua**	**Summary executions; Torture;**	Alegaciones de tortura y asesinato así como actos de intimidación, incluyendo amenazas y malos tratos. Según las informaciones recibidas, el 20 de enero de 2015, en la comunidad El Portal, Jinotega, habría estallado un artefacto explosivo. Aproximadamente diez minutos después de la explosión, alrededor de veinte supuestos miembros del ejército habrían ingresado en la zona y disparado hacia el lugar de la explosión. El Sr. Modesto Duarte Altamirano y su hijo Jadier Duarte Peralta, que se encontraban cerca del lugar de los hechos, habrían sido capturados por los soldados. Se indica que Mr. Modesto habría sido torturado y ejecutado por los solados ya que el cuerpo sin vida fue encontrado posteriormente y presentaba dos heridas de bala. Además, se habrían localizado, alrededor de la zona de la explosión, cas ¡uillos y restos de cuerda en un árbol dónde se alega que el Sr. Duarte Altamirano habría sido atado y torturado. Además, según las alegaciones su hijo Jadier Duarte Peralta también habría sido interrogado, amenazado y torturado por el ejército.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
23/03/2015 JUA	ZWE 1/2015 **Zimbabwe**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention and enforced disappearance of a human rights defender. According to the information received, on 9 March 2015, Mr. Itai Peace Kadizi Dzamara, a human rights defender and journalist who has led the Occupy Africa Unity Square (OAUS) Movement since 2014 and is the spokesperson for the National Youth Action Alliance, was forcibly abducted from a barber shop by five unidentified men. Mr. Dzamara has not been seen since and his family has received no information about his fate or whereabouts. Grave concern is expressed about the possible arrest and disappearance of Mr. Dzamara, which appears to be related to his human rights activities and the legitimate exercise of his right to freedom of peaceful assembly and his right to freedom of expression. Serious concern is also expressed regarding the fate and whereabouts of Mr. Dzamara, as well as about his physical and psychological integrity. Mr. Dzamara was the subject of a previous communication sent on 15 January 2004, see E/CN.4/2005/64/Add.1, para. 1032.	30/03/2015
24/03/2015 JAL	BHS 1/2015 **Bahamas**	**Health; Migrants; Minority issues; Torture;**	Allegations concerning the negative impact of the recent immigration reform in the Bahamas and the subsequent alleged detention and deportation of persons, including children, of Haitian descent living in the Bahamas. According to the information received, on 1 November 2014, the Government of Bahamas initiated the implementation of a new immigration policy approved by Parliament on 17 September 2014. The new policy establishes that everyone living in the Bahamas is required to have a passport of the country of their nationality and, in the case of non-Bahamian citizens, a residency or work permit previously issued by a consular office in a foreign country. Reportedly, since 1 November 2014, several operations to enforce the new policy were carried out by officials from the Department of Immigration. In January 2015, the Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs confirmed that 5,841 people were repatriated during 2014. Reportedly, the measures have had a disproportionate impact on Haitians living in the Bahamas, including children of Haitian descent who were born in the Bahamas. Furthermore, detention conditions in Carmichael Detention Centre, where Haitians are awaiting deportation to Haiti, are reportedly not in compliance with international human rights standards. Detainees for instance do not have access to health professionals and are not provided with basic hygiene products, clothes, sufficient beds and adequate food.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
24/03/2015 JAL	USA 5/2015 **United States of America**	**Summary executions; Terrorism; Torture;**	Alleged unlawful killings resulting from an air strike involving the use of an armed drone belonging to the authorities of the United States of America. According to the information received, on 26 January 2015, Mr. Abdullah Khaled Aziz Al-Zendan - a local farmer -, a 13-year-old boy and an unidentified male were killed as a result of a drone strike conducted in the Huraib area, Mareb Governorate, Yemen. The drone allegedly belonged to the authorities of the United States of America. It is further reported that, as a result of an earlier drone strike in October 2011, in the Shabwah Governorate, the 16-year-old brother and the father, Mr. Saleh Qaid Teayman, of the above-mentioned 13-year-old boy, were killed. Another brother of the 13-year-old-boy, Mr. Ezuldeen Saleh Taeyman, was severely injured in 2013 as a result of another drone strike. Reportedly, to date, no investigation has been initiated into any of these incidents and no reparation has been provided to the victims or their families. A communication with the same content has been sent to the Government of Yemen on 24 March 2015, see below, case no. YEM 1/2015.	
24/03/2015 JAL	YEM 1/2015 **Yemen**	**Summary executions; Terrorism; Torture;**	Alleged unlawful killings resulting from an air strike involving the use of an armed drone belonging to the authorities of the United States of America. According to the information received, on 26 January 2015, Mr. Abdullah Khaled Aziz Al-Zendan - a local farmer -, a 13-year-old boy and an unidentified male individual were killed as a result of a drone strike conducted in the Huraib area, Mareb Governorate, in Yemen. The drone allegedly belonged to the authorities of the United States of America. It is further reported that, as a result of an earlier drone strike in October 2011, in the Shabwah Governorate, the 16-year-old brother and father, Mr. Saleh Qaid Teayman, of the above-mentioned 13-year-old boy, were killed. Another brother of the 13-year-old-boy, Mr. Ezuldeen Saleh Taeyman, was severely injured in 2013 as a result of another drone strike. Reportedly, to date, no investigation has been initiated into any of these incidents and no reparation has been provided to the victims or their families. A communication with the same content has been sent to the Government of the United States of America on 24 March 2015, see above, case no. USA 5/2015.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
25/03/2015 JAL	ESP 6/2015 **Spain**	**Disappearances; Summary executions; Torture; Truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-rec;**	Alegaciones relativas a la decisión del Consejo de Ministros de rechazar las solicitudes de extradición de varios ciudadanos españoles, presentadas por autoridades judiciales argentinas, con relación a una serie de delitos que incluirían violaciones graves de los derechos humanos y crímenes de lesa humanidad cometidos durante el franquismo. Según la información recibida, el 13 de marzo de 2015, el Consejo de Ministros habría tomado la decisión de rechazar dicha solicitud de extradición, sin iniciar procedimientos judiciales a nivel nacional para investigar y sancionar a los responsables de violaciones graves de los derechos humanos, incluyendo tortura, ejecuciones sumarias y desapariciones, cometidas durante el régimen franquista. Esta decisión negaría los derechos de las víctimas y sus familiares a la justicia y a la verdad. Se expresa grave preocupación por los argumentos esgrimidos por el Gobierno, los cuales ignorarían las normas y estándares internacionales de los derechos humanos, así como las recomendaciones formuladas por varios mecanismos internacionales de derechos humanos.	
25/03/2015 JUA	SWZ 1/2015 **Swaziland**	**Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary detention, conviction and solitary confinement of a human rights lawyer for exercising his legitimate right to freedom of opinion and expression. According to the information received, after he was arrested on 17 March 2014 and denied bail, Mr. Thulani Maseko, a prominent human rights lawyer, was convicted on 17 July 2014 and sentenced on 25 July 2014 to two years of imprisonment on charges of contempt of court for writing and publishing an article critical of a judge's handling of a criminal case. Since 19 March 2015, Mr. Maseko has reportedly been kept in solitary confinement in retaliation for his publication of a letter marking the one year anniversary of his detention. Serious concerns are expressed about his physical and mental integrity. Mr. Maseko was the subject of two previous communications; sent on 12 June 2009, see A/HRC/13/22/Add.1, para. 2134-2138, and on 2 April 2014, see A/HRC/27/72, case no. SWZ 1/2014.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
26/03/2015 JAL	IND 4/2015 **India**	**Adequate housing; Indigenous peoples;**	Allegations of adverse impacts on the right to an adequate standard of living, including food and housing, and the rights of indigenous peoples due to the ongoing construction of the Mapithel dam in the State of Manipur. According to the information received, the construction of the Mapithel dam continues to result in evictions, displacement, inadequate resettlement and the destruction of over 700 hectares of agricultural land in six villages, namely Luphong, Phayang, Chadong, Lamlai Khullen (now Ramrei), Lamlai Khunou (now Ramrei lower) and Lamlai Monbung. The construction of the dam, which is scheduled for completion in 2015, threatens the survival of approximately 10,000 inhabitants who will be forcefully displaced from their land and deprived from their sources of livelihood. Reports suggest that the decision to build the dam was made without free, prior and informed consent of the individuals and communities concerned.	
27/03/2015 JUA	AUS 3/2015 **Australia**		Alleged ill-treatment and lack of adequate medical care of a prisoner with mental disabilities at Yalata Labour Prison. According to the information received, Mr. X, a 29-year-old United States citizen, has been subjected to ill-treatment and has not received adequate mental health care in detention. In 2008, when living in Adelaide, he was found not guilty for the crime of attempted homicide for reason of mental impairment, and was ordered by the court to be transferred to the State's highest-security mental health hospital, James Nash House, for a 13 year period. After nine months, in September 2009, officials at James Nash House transferred Mr. X to the Yatala Labour Prison, reportedly due to a lack of capacity for dealing with patients with "personality disorders". At Yatala Labour Prison, Mr. X reportedly remained in solitary confinement for five years and a half, until January 2015. He is confined to his cell for 23 hours a day with only one one-hour break where he is placed in a cagelike structure outdoors rather than the open yard. It is also reported that Mr. X has repeatedly been subjected to additional punitive measures, including handcuffing regimes (for nearly one year), and loud music blasting into his cell for four hours.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
27/03/2015 JUA	OMN 2/2015 **Oman**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal, in the form of a travel ban, against an Omani human rights defender for his cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. According to the information received, Mr. Mohammed Al-Fazari has not been allowed to travel abroad since 22 December 2014, when his travel documents, including his passport, were confiscated and he was subjected to a prolonged interrogation at Muscat police station. Mr. Al-Fazari met the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association during his country visit to Oman from 8 to 13 September 2014; his interrogation, confiscation of his travel documents and de facto travel ban are allegedly the result of his cooperation with the Special Rapporteur. Mr. Al-Fazari was the subject of a previous communication sent on 27 February 2013, see A/HRC/23/51, case no. OMN 1/2013. Other communications concerning alleged acts of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders for cooperating with the Special Rapporteur during his country visit to Oman were sent to the authorities on 29 January 2015, see A/HRC/29/50, case no. OMN 1/2015, on 16 December 2014, see A/HRC/29/50, case no. OMN 5/2014, on 11 November 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. OMN 3/2014 and on 26 September 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. OMN 2/2014.	
27/03/2015 JUA	QAT 1/2015 **Qatar**	**Arbitrary detention; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged torture and/or ill-treatment, and unfair trial of a Filipino national in Qatar. According to the information received, Mr. Ronaldo Lopez Ulep, a Filipino national and civilian employee of Qatar's Air Force, was arrested in Doha on 7 April 2010. During his pre-trial detention, Mr. Lopez Ulep was reportedly subjected to physical and psychological torture and other ill-treatment. He was made to sign a document in Arabic, a language he does not understand, which was later presented in court as a confession of guilt. Mr. Lopez Ulep was also held in solitary confinement for over four years. On 30 April 2014, he was sentenced to life in prison on charges of espionage by the first instance criminal court. The appeal hearings, which started in May 2014, have been conducted in Arabic without the provision of interpretation. Mr. Lopez Ulep is currently detained in Doha's Central Prison. Serious concern is expressed concerning Mr. Lopez Ulep's physical and mental integrity.	

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
27/03/2015 JAL	VEN 4/2015 **Venezuela**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Summary executions;**	Muerte violenta de un menor de 14 años durante una protesta pacífica en San Cristóbal, Táchira. Según las informaciones recibidas, el 24 de Febrero 2015, en las proximidades de la Universidad Católica de Táchira en San Cristóbal, la policía nacional habría disparado contra los manifestantes que se encontraban en la protesta resultando en la muerte de un menor wayúu que en ese momento pasaba por la calle. Se indica que algunos manifestantes habrían lanzado piedras y cocteles molotov a los cuerpos de seguridad, pero que el movimiento de protesta era fundamentalmente pacífico e implicó el corte de rutas. De acuerdo con las alegaciones se habría detenido a un policía nacional como presunto responsable de la muerte menor. Tras el incidente se habría realizado la autopsia al menor. Es importante señalar que el supuesto uso excesivo de la fuerza por agentes de seguridad estatales fue objeto de dos comunicaciones previas, el 11 de julio de 2013, ver referencia no. A/HRC/25/74, caso no. VEN 5/2013, y el 3 de marzo de 2014, ver referencia no. A/HRC/27/72, caso no. VEN 1/2014.	29/05/2015 18/06/2015
31/03/2015 JUA	MDA 2/2015 **Republic of Moldova**	**Adequate housing; Disability;**	Alleged forced eviction and continued residency in an institutional setting for 14 persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities in the city of Balti who have, until now, benefited from a supported housing programme administered by the city. According to the information received, the Municipal Council of the city of Balti, to date among the most advanced Moldovan localities in providing community support services to persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities, has through Decision No. 1/94 decided to discontinue its protected housing programme. This would leave eight persons with disabilities, who currently live in supported apartments, without a place to live with the risk of institutionalization. The deinstitutionalization of a further six persons with disabilities who were waiting to be deinstitutionalized and move from residential institutions to apartments supported by the housing programme would be discontinued.	09/06/2015

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
01/04/2015 JAL	GBR 2/2015 **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**	**Discrimination against women; Health; Torture; Violence against women;**	Allegations concerning the persistence of provisions in North Irelands' domestic legislation relating to abortion which restrict women and girls' right to health and physical integrity under international human rights law. According to the information received, under the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act and the 1945 Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Act, women or those who help a woman to have an abortion, may face life imprisonment. Furthermore, the 1967 Abortion Act does not apply in Northern Ireland. Abortion is only acceptable when there is a risk to the physical or mental health of the woman or existing children in the family, and abnormalities that could lead to a child being "seriously handicapped". After the Ministry of Justice announced in December 2013 their intention to prepare a consultation document to review abortion laws in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission was granted leave to pursue a judicial review of these laws on 2 February 2015, the next stage of this legal challenge being a three-day hearing in June 2015.	15/07/2015
02/04/2015 JUA	KAZ 1/2015 **Kazakhstan**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and detention of an environmental civil society activist in relation to the exercise of his rights to freedom of association and of opinion and expression. According to the information received, on 7 March 2015, Mr. Saken Baikenov, a human rights defender from the Antigeptil human rights movement, which works on environment related issues, was arrested by officers of the National Security Committee in the city of Almaty and taken to Astana by plane the same day. On 9 March 2015, Saryarkinskiy District Court No. 2 in Astana charged him with "incitement to social, national, tribal, racial, class or religious discord" under Article 174 of the Criminal Code, an offence punishable by 12 to 20 years of imprisonment. Mr. Baikenov is reportedly to serve a two-month pre-trail detention period pending investigation. It is alleged that the arrest of Mr. Baikenov and the subsequent charges brought against him may be linked to a post he wrote on his Facebook page.	22/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No.* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
02/04/2015 JUA	ARE 2/2015 **United Arab Emirates**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, detention, torture and conviction of a blogger and human rights defender in reprisal of his cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers and his peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. According to the information received, Mr. Osama al-Najjar was arrested without a warrant on 17 March 2014, interrogated and tortured for about four days in a State Security secret detention centre. He had been actively defending his father, who is currently serving an 11-year prison sentence for his peaceful activities, on Twitter and on his blog. During the four-day interrogation, Mr. Al-Najjar was in particular questioned about his meeting with the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers during her official country visit in 2014. On 21 March 2014, Mr. Al-Najjar was transferred to Al-Wathba prison and held in pre-trial detention for over six months without having access to a lawyer. His trial started on 23 September 2014 before the Federal Supreme Court. Despite serious allegations of violations of fundamental due process and fair trial guarantees, on 25 November 2014, Mr. Al-Najjar was sentenced to three years in prison. Mr. Al-Najjar was the subject of a previous communication sent on 16 April 2014, see A/HRC/27/72, case no. ARE 3/2014.	30/04/2015
07/04/2015 JUA	GIN 1/2015 **Guinea**	**Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Allégations d'agression présumée, coups, insultes et menaces d'un défenseur des droits de l'homme en Guinée. Selon les informations reçues, le 9 février 2015, M. X a été agressé, battu, insulté et menacé par la garde présidentielle. M. X aurait été victime de plusieurs attaques similaires dans le cadre de ses activités consistant à fournir une assistance juridique aux victimes d'arrestations arbitraires et d'autres violations des droits de l'homme. Le 10 février 2015, M. X a déposé une plainte devant la Cour de première instance de Conakry II (Kaloum). Il est signalé que rien n'a été fait jusqu'à présent par les autorités pour enquêter sur les événements décrits ci-dessus et pour poursuivre et punir les auteurs.	

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
07/04/2015 JUA	MMR 3/2015 **Myanmar**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Myanmar;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, detention and sentencing of two peaceful protestors against Parliament's decision to approve an increase in electricity prices and two bystanders. According to the information received, on 27 March 2014, Mr. Thein Aung Myint and Mr. Saw Hla Aung, members of the Movement for Democracy Current Force, led a peaceful protest outside the Diamond Plaza in Mandalay against Parliament's decision to approve an increase in electricity prices. Mr. Myint had applied for a permit to hold the protest but it had been refused. Shortly after the protest started, the police arrested Mr. Thein Aung Myint and Mr. Saw Hla Aung, as well as Mr. Kyaw Myo Htun, a bystander. The police also arrested Ms. Khet Khet Tin, Mr. Myint's wife. The four individuals were charged under article 18 of the Law on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession. On 23 March 2015, Chanayethazan Township Court found all four individuals guilty of conducting a peaceful protest without prior consent from the authorities and sentenced them to six months imprisonment.	
09/04/2015 JAL	GMB 1/2015 **Gambia**	**Arbitrary detention; Disappearances; Health; Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged death of three men involved in an attempted coup d'état in the Gambia and alleged arrests, abductions and illegal detentions following that event. According to the information received, three men reportedly involved in the organization of the 30 December 2014 attempted coup d'état in the Gambia were killed during the Government's attempt to resist the coup. Photographs of the deceased raise questions about the circumstances that led to their deaths. Following the coup, at least thirty persons, including family members of alleged plotters and a child, were arrested. Their whereabouts have not been confirmed officially but reports indicate that they are being held in incommunicado detention in unofficial places of detention, and that several of them have been subject to acts of torture. Reportedly, around ten individuals have been released.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
09/04/2015 JAL	ZMB 1/2015 **Zambia**	**Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and prosecution of two men on the sole basis of their sexual orientation, as well as alleged unfair trial. According to the information received, Mr. X and Mr. Y were arrested by the police on 6 March 2014 and accused of offences 'against the order of nature' under sections 155(a) and 155(c) of the Penal Code. They were released on bail pending trial. Forensic tests, consisting of the measurement of the anal orifice and inspection of the private parts, were performed on both men without their consent and allegedly corroborated the existence of homosexual intercourse. Mr. X and Mr. Y were not provided with legal representation during the trial. If convicted, both men face a sentence of 15 years minimum to life in prison. A verdict is expected on 10 April 2015.	
10/04/2015 JAL	BGD 1/2015 **Bangladesh**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Summary executions;**	Allegations of summary executions in the context of the national political crisis following the 2014 national elections in Bangladesh. According to the information received, following the national elections of 2014, political polarization between the ruling Awami League and the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) escalated into a major political crisis, resulting in serious human rights violations and abuses in the country, including killings by non-State actors and by law enforcement officials during protests. Between 6 January and 7 February 2015, 49 individuals were killed as a result of petrol bombs used by opposition demonstrators. In response to the violence, the Government authorized, in January 2015, law enforcement forces to take any action whenever and wherever deemed necessary to stop the attacks on citizens during the blockades and general strikes, including by issuing directives allowing for the use of lethal force against people suspected of carrying out these attacks. As a result, between early January and February 2015, 32 individuals were reportedly killed by police forces. No investigation has reportedly been carried out into any of these killings.	17/04/2015

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
10/04/2015 JUA	EGY 5/2015 **Egypt**	**Arbitrary detention; Independence of judges and lawyers; Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged risk of imminent execution of six individuals following unfair trials in Egypt. According to the information received, on 21 October 2014, Messrs. Mohamed Ali Afifi Badawi (aged 33), Mohammad Bakri Mohammad Haroun (aged 31), Hani Mustafa Amin Amer (aged 33), Islam Sayed Ahmed Ibrahim (aged 26), Khaled Farag Mohammed Ali (aged 27) and Mr. X (aged 19) were sentenced to death by the Supreme Military Court in Egypt for their alleged involvement in the "Arab Sharkas Cell" case. The sentences were reportedly pronounced following legal procedures marred with irregularities. Confessions were allegedly extracted under torture. Except for Mr. X, who is considered a child under Egyptian law, none of the defendants were able to appeal the decision of the Supreme Military Court. On 24 March 2015, Mr. X' appeal was however rejected by the Court of Appeals, allowing for the sentence to be carried out at any time.	07/05/2015
10/04/2015 JUA	MMR 4/2015 **Myanmar**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Myanmar; Violence against women;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and detention of over one hundred individuals in relation to peaceful protests calling for amendments to the National Education Bill and/or the release of previously arrested protestors. According to the information received, on 10 March 2015, 127 peaceful protestors calling for amendments to the National Education Law were arrested in Letpadan, Myanmar. Out of these 127 persons, 69 (58 men and 11 women) remain detained in Tharawaddy prison and face charges under five provisions of the penal code. If convicted on all counts, they may face up to 20 years' imprisonment. 11 other protestors, who have been released on bail, are being charged under three provisions of the penal code, while one more protestor remains detained in Myingyan prison. It is alleged that 20 women out of the 127 initial detainees were administered pregnancy tests in detention and that two other women, Ms. Phyo Pyo Aung and Ms. Ei Thinzar Maung, were severely beaten and verbally abused by female police officers. In various parts of the country, another 13 individuals, mostly members of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, have been detained, and/or charged under the penal code and/or article 18 of the Law on Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful procession or had arrest warrants issued against them. The situation of peaceful protesters and their supporters calling for changes to the National Education Law was the subject of a previous communication sent on 6 March 2015, see above, case no. MMR 2/2015.	31/07/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
10/04/2015 JAL	USA 7/2015 **United States of America**	**African descent; Minority issues; Racism; Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged torture of African Americans and other minorities at Area 2 and 3 Police Headquarters in the city of Chicago from 1972 through 1991. According to the information received, African Americans and other minorities were subjected to various forms of torture, including with the purpose of obtaining confessions, which in turn resulted in incarcerations and death sentences. Some victims have been released because of evidence proving that Chicago police, under the direction of a former Police Commander, obtained their confessions through torture, while others victims, who were reportedly tortured into their confessions, remain incarcerated. To this date, no Chicago police officer or city official has been convicted for any acts of torture, and the United States' government has failed to abrogate the legislation that allows for impunity.	
13/04/2015 JAL	EGY 4/2015 **Egypt**	**Discrimination against women; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Violence against women;**	Allegations of charges brought against a women human rights defender for testifying on the violent dispersal by police officers of a peaceful protest and the death of a female activist. According to the information received, on 24 January 2015, Ms. Azza Soliman, President of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance (CEWLA), witnessed the violent dispersal of a peaceful protest in Cairo - in which she did not take part - including the shooting of activist Ms. Shaimaa al-Sabbagh. After learning that Ms. Al-Sabbagh had died from her injuries, Ms. Soliman voluntarily went to the Prosecution's Office to give testimony of the events and file a complaint against the involved security forces. After testifying, Ms. Soliman was however informed by the Prosecutor that she was being accused of breaching Law 107 of 2013 on the Right to Public Meetings, Processions and Peaceful Demonstration. On 23 March 2015, official charges were brought against Ms. Soliman for "illegal gathering" and "participating in an unauthorized protest that harmed public security" under Law 107. The scheduled first hearing before the Abdeen Misdemeanor Court of 4 April 2015 was postponed to 9 May 2015. Law 107 of 2013 was the subject of two previous communications sent on 12 February 2013, see A/HRC/23/51, case no. EGY 4/2013, and on 20 March 2013, see A/HRC/24/21, case no. EGY 5/2013. Ms. Al-Sabbagh was the subject of a previous communication sent on 30 January 2015, see A/HRC/29/50, case no. EGY 2/2015.	28/07/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
15/04/2015 JAL	AUS 4/2015 **Australia**	**Cultural Rights; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Indigenous peoples;**	Allegations concerning the Federal Government's discontinuing of funding for basic services in remote aboriginal communities, which may affect more than 100 such communities in the State of Western Australia. According to the information received, the measure is expected to take place at the end of July 2015 when federal funding will end, affecting 12,113 people living in the 275 remote communities in the State of Western Australia. Concerns are raised regarding the impact that such discontinuation may have on the human rights of indigenous communities, including their cultural rights, whether indigenous communities have been consulted with and the alternatives that the communities will have to choose from.	03/06/2015
15/04/2015 JUA	BHR 2/2015 **Bahrain**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Torture;**	Allegations of arrest and detention of a human rights defender following his public denouncement of torture and ill-treatment in Jaw Prison in Bahrain. According to the information received, on 10 March 2015, prisoners at Jaw Prison were attacked by Bahraini security forces using rubber bullets, tear gas, and shotgun pellets, which led to the injuries of at least 500 prisoners. Furthermore, 10 prisoners were transferred to solitary confinement. On 2 April 2015, Mr. Nabeel Rajab was arrested in connection with tweets that he had made regarding the torture and ill treatment of prisoners at Jaw Prison in relation to the events of 10 March 2015. The following day, government security forces raided his house and confiscated all of the electronic equipment on the premises. It was later announced that Mr. Rajab would be charged with insulting a statutory body and spreading rumours during wartime. If convicted, Mr. Rajab may face up to ten years in prison. Mr. Rajab was the subject of a previous communication sent on 14 October 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. BHR 13/2014.	18/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
15/04/2015 JAL	ITA 1/2015 **Italy**	**African descent;** **Racism;**	Allegations concerning a racist statement made by a Member of Parliament in political discourse. According to the information received, on 13 July 2013, Senator Roberto Calderoli, while addressing the Northern League political rally in Treviglio, stated that the Minister of Integration, Ms. Cécile Kyenge, who was born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and has Italian citizenship, would be better off working as a minister "in her country." He also reportedly said: "I love animals – bears and wolves, as is known – but when I see the pictures of Kyenge I cannot but think of the features of an orang-utan, even if I'm not saying she is one". On 28 January 2015, the Immunity Board of the Senate completed its examination of the issue of accountability for the opinions expressed by the Mr. Calderoli. It decided that Mr. Calderoli's words did not have any racist connotation but were pronounced in the exercise of political power. Concern is expressed that Mr. Calderoli's remarks about Ms. Kyenge have racist connotations and are in contravention with the absolute prohibition of racial and ethnic discrimination as stipulated in international human rights law.	
15/04/2015 UA	MEX 4/2015 **México**	**Summary executions;**	Alegaciones de asesinato así como amenazas y actos de hostigamiento por parte de oficiales del ejército. Según las informaciones recibidas, el 22 de febrero 2015 a las 4.30 pm, el Sr. Gustavo Ortega Pérez habría salido con su vehículo de una gasolinera cuando se le cruzaron dos vehículos que habrían sido perseguidos por tres vehículos del ejército con aproximadamente 15 militares a bordo. En este momento se habría iniciado un enfrentamiento con armas de fuego entre los dos vehículos y los vehículos militares. El Sr. Ortega Pérez se habría encontrado en el fuego cruzado y habría recibido un disparo en la espalda causándole la pérdida del control del coche. El personal del ejército le habría disparado una segunda vez cuando éste se encontraba todavía en el vehículo. El Sr. Ortega Pérez falleció el 29 de febrero 2015 después de haber pasado una semana en estado de coma en el hospital. Además, se alega que la Sra. De la Cruz, pareja del fallecido, habría recibido amenazas y actos de hostigamiento por parte de oficiales del ejército.	15/06/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
16/04/2015 JAL	CHN 2/2015 **China (People's Republic of)**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Allegations relating to a new draft law on overseas Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which, if adopted without changes, would violate international human rights law and standards. According to the information received, on 22 December 2014, at the 12th session of the Standing Committee of the 12th National People's Congress, a draft "Overseas NGOs Administration Law of the People's Republic of China" (draft Law) was presented by the Vice Minister of Public Security. The draft Law is aimed at regulating overseas NGOs, which are defined as "non-profit and non-governmental social organizations established outside of China" (Article 2). Several provisions of this draft Law unduly and severely restrict the exercise of the right to freedom of association and of peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Serious concern is expressed, among others, about the compromising effect of several provisions of this draft Law on the role and independence of civil society organizations and their ability to conduct their activities freely and without undue interference from the State.	21/05/2015
17/04/2015 JUA	BLR 1/2015 **Belarus**	**Belarus; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Summary executions;**	Allegations of death threats made against a human rights lawyer and activist, as well as his family, for his legitimate and peaceful human rights work. According to the information received, in February 2015, Mr. Leanid Sudalenka, the chairperson of the Homiel city branch of the civil society association 'Legal Initiative', and his family started to receive death threats in relation to his human rights work, in particular legal work. Following these threats, Mr. Sudalenka filed several requests with the Homiel Regional Police Department for a criminal investigation. His repeated requests have however been denied. On 7 April 2015, Mr. Sudalenka's offices at Legal Initiative as well as his home residence were raided by the police. Concern is expressed for the physical and psychological security and integrity of Mr. Sudalenka and his family. Grave concern is expressed at allegations that the death threats against his family, as well as the police raids, are linked to his legitimate and peaceful human rights work, in particular his legal work. Mr. Sudalenka was the subject of a previous communication sent on 25 February 2011, see A/HRC/18/51, case no. BLR 2/2011.	12/06/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
17/04/2015 UA	IND 5/2015 **India**	**Summary executions;**	Allegations concerning the summary executions of 20 illegal woodcutters as well as death threats made against the witnesses of these incidents. According to the information received, on 7 April 2015, in a joint operation, police in Andhra Pradesh and forest officials in Chittoor district shot dead 20 woodcutters and injured eight others for illegally cutting down endangered red sandalwood trees. In a statement dated 13 April 2015, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India reported that they received testimonies from two witnesses of the alleged killings. These witnesses reported threats to their lives and those of their family members and relatives. In addition, the only survivor of these killings was reportedly forced into hiding out of fear for his life after having escaped the shooting and reported on what he had witnessed. Concern is expressed about the circumstances of these killings, including reports that the victims were shot in the back, as well as at the allegations of death threats against the survivor, the two witnesses and their families.	
17/04/2015 JAL	IRL 1/2015 **Ireland**	**Discrimination against women; Health;**	Allegations regarding the discriminatory effects of certain provisions contained in the Gender Recognition Bill (Number 116 of 2014). According to the information received, after being announced by the Government in September 2014, the Gender Recognition Bill (the Bill) was presented to the upper house of the Oireachtas – the Irish legislature - on 17 December 2014 and on 21 January 2015, and then examined on 5 March 2015 by the lower house. While acknowledging that the Bill is a positive attempt to provide access to legal recognition of gender identity for transgender people, concern is raised at provisions about mandatory medical certification, and disproportionate safeguards applied to children, which discriminate against transgender people and restrict their right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health, as well as their rights to privacy, equality before the law, and education.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
17/04/2015 JAL	KWT 2/2015 **Kuwait**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, temporary detention and charges brought against a human rights defender in an alleged act of reprisal for his cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human rights. According to the information received, on 20 March 2015, Mr. Nawaf al-Hendal, the Director of Kuwait Watch Organisation for Human Rights, delivered an oral statement to the 28th Human Rights Council in Geneva regarding the human rights situation in Kuwait. After his return to Kuwait, on 23 March 2015, Mr. Al-Hendal organized an observer team to monitor a protest outside the National Assembly in Al-Erada square in Kuwait City, which called for reform of the judiciary and the release of detained activists. At approximately 8.45 p.m., the Kuwaiti Special Police Force blocked the road towards the National Assembly and physically dispersed and beat the protestors. Mr. Al-Hendal was beaten and subsequently arrested and detained. On 25 March 2015, Mr. Al-Hendal was released from detention. He is currently awaiting trial on charges of "participating in an illegal demonstration". A travel ban has been imposed on him.	28/04/2015 18/05/2015 05/06/2015
17/04/2015 JAL	USA 8/2015 **United States of America**	**Independence of judges and lawyers; Terrorism;**	Alleged denial of the right to know the truth to the relatives of the victims killed in the terrorist attacks on the island of Bali on 12 October 2002. According to the information received, the prolonged detention in Guantanamo Bay of an Indonesian national who is believed to be the operations chief of the South East Asian Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiah, reportedly involved in the planning of the so-called Bali bombings, results in the impossibility to obtain justice for Ms. Susanna Miller, Mr. Matthew Arnold, and Mrs. Maggie Stephens, who all lost a close family member in the bombings. A copy of this communication was addressed to the Government of Indonesia for information.	17/08/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
20/04/2015 JAL	KEN 2/2015 **Kenya**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Terrorism;**	Allegations concerning the freezing of the bank accounts of two Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). According to the information received, on 8 April 2015, Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) and HAKI Africa were unable to access their funds in their bank accounts as a result of the inclusion of these two organizations in an official list of entities suspected to be associated with Al-Shabaab. The list was published in the official government gazette on 7 April 2015. Since the gazette notice gave listed entities 24 hours' notice to submit evidence as to "why [they] should not be declared as (a) specified entity(-ies)", the two NGOs were unable to provide authorities with the necessary information within the required deadline. Concern is expressed that MUHURI and HAKI Africa may have had their bank accounts frozen as a result of their peaceful and legitimate human rights activities in Kenya.	
20/04/2015 JAL	MKD 1/2015 **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**	**Arbitrary detention; Health; Migrants; Torture;**	Allegations concerning the arbitrary detention of irregular migrants and asylum seekers, including children, at the Reception Centre for Foreigners "Gazi Baba" in Skopje. According to the information received, "Gazi Baba" has an official capacity of up to 150 people but currently holds approximately 350 detainees. These irregular migrants and asylum seekers are reportedly arbitrarily detained, sometimes for more than six months, without the possibility to challenge their detention in a court of law. Furthermore, detainees receive infrequent meals and some have to sleep on the floor. Migrants and asylum seekers suffer from medical problems caused or aggravated by the substandard conditions, the length of detention and the lack of consistent or adequate medical assistance. More specifically, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, inadequate heating, insufficient quantities of hot water and the lack of ventilation were mentioned as factors that contribute to the outbreak and spread of respiratory, gastrointestinal and dermatological diseases.	08/07/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
20/04/2015 AL	GBR 3/2015 **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**	**Sale of children;**	Allegations concerning numerous reported cases of sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed in various regions of the United Kingdom. According to the information received, between 1997 and 2014, numerous reported cases of sexual abuse and exploitation throughout the United Kingdom were improperly investigated by the authorities due partly to a culture of denial. Child victims were allegedly treated with contempt, re-victimized and did not receive the appropriate care required in such cases of sexual exploitation. Budget cuts to front line services have reportedly weakened the response available for child victims of sexual exploitation. General concerns are raised regarding the accountability of perpetrators and redress given to victims.	18/06/2015
23/04/2015 JAL	AFG 1/2015 **Afghanistan**	**Cultural Rights; Discrimination against women; Freedom of religion; Violence against women;**	Allegations concerning the public lynching and setting on fire of an Afghan woman accused of burning a copy of the Quran. According to the information received, on 19 March 2015, after having been accused of burning a copy of the Quran at a public shrine in Kabul city, a mob comprised of approximately 30 men physically assaulted a 27-year-old student named Farkhunda with stones and sticks and ran her over with a vehicle three times. As a result, the victim died and her corpse was subsequently set on fire. Reportedly the police arrived at the scene while the lynching was ongoing but failed to adequately respond to the mob violence and prevent the victim's death. On 20 March 2015, President Ashraf Ghani appointed a commission to investigate the case from a religious and legal point of view. On 24 March 2015, the criminal investigation, which was initiated by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Kabul province, was reportedly transferred to the CID at the Headquarters of the Ministry of Interior given the high profile of the case.	

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
24/04/2015 UA	IDN 4/2015 **Indonesia**	**Summary executions;**	Alleged imminent execution of ten prisoners on death row in Indonesia. According to the information received, on 9 April 2015, the Attorney General of Indonesia stated that his Office may carry out the executions of ten prisoners after the Asia-Africa Conference, which is scheduled for late April 2015. Reports received on 23 April 2015 indicate that government representatives of the countries of nationality of the prisoners were summoned to a meeting scheduled for 25 April 2015, which is expected to see delivery of their 72 hours' notice, and that therefore executions may take place on 28 April 2015. Prisoners believed to be scheduled for execution are: Mr. Andrew Chan (Australia), Mr Myuran Sukumaran (Australia), Mr. Rodrigo Gularte (Brazil), Mr. Raheem Agbaje Salami (Nigeria), Mr. Sylvester Obiekwe Nwolise (Nigeria), Mr. Okwudili Oyatanze (Nigeria), Ms. Mary Jane Fiesta Veloso (Philippines), Mr. Zainal Abidin (Indonesia), Mr. Martin Anderson (Ghana) and Serge Areski Atlaoui (France). All ten prisoners scheduled for execution are currently being held in Nusakambangan prison, where the executions are reportedly due to take place. A previous communication on the same issue was sent on 6 March 2015, see above, case no. IDN 2/2015.	

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24/04/2015 JAL	KEN 3/2015 **Kenya**	**Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders;**	Allegations of threats made against a human rights defender and the risk of deportation of another human rights defender. According to the information received, on 12 March 2014, the High Court of Kenya declared the presence of Ms. Lucy Elizabeth Hannan, the co-director of InformAction, a human rights organization, as "contrary to national interest". Between February 2014 and November 2014, Ms. Hannan did not possess legal status in Kenya; she was later granted a temporary work permit. On 15 October 2014, several civil society members, including Mr. Maina Kiai, director of InformAction and United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, were verbally attacked in a parliamentary debate by a Member of Parliament. On 19 October 2014, a threat against Mr. Kiai's life was posted on his mandate's official Facebook page. Serious concerns are expressed that the threats against Mr. Kiai, including during a parliamentary debate, and the harassment and the risk of deportation of Ms. Hannan may be linked to their peaceful and legitimate human rights work in the country. Mr. Maina Kiai was the subject of two previous communications sent on 23 September 2013, see A/HRC/25/74, case no. KEN 6/2013, and on 15 January 2008, see A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, para. 1489-1491. Ms. Hannan was the subject of a previous communication sent on 4 April 2014, see A/HRC/27/72, case no. KEN 4/2014.	
24/04/2015 AL	MAR 1/2015 **Maroc**	**Disappearances;**	Allégations selon lesquelles les enquêtes de l'Instance équité et réconciliation (IER) et du Conseil consultatif des droits de l'homme (CCDH) ne seraient pas adéquates. Selon les informations reçues, le rapport du CCDH se contente de reconnaître le décès des personnes disparues sans fournir de preuves concrètes. De plus, il est allégué que, concernant des allégations de disparitions forcées, l'IER et le CCDH n'auraient fourni que des informations vagues et invérifiables qui ne répondraient pas aux attentes des familles des disparus.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
24/04/2015 JAL	PAK 3/2015 **Pakistan**	**Health; Summary executions;**	Alleged attacks against, and kidnappings and killings of health workers involved in poliomyelitis vaccination campaigns and security personnel deployed for their safety. According to the information received, from 2012 to present, there have been multiple attacks against polio vaccination health workers and security personnel deployed to protect them in the provinces of Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. These attacks, kidnappings and killings have contributed to a climate of fear and violence that has severely hampered polio vaccination campaigns, and resulted in a surge of cases of poliomyelitis in Pakistan. This in turn has had a negative impact on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health of the population, in particular of children.	04/05/2015 18/05/2015
27/04/2015 JAL	CMR 1/2015 **Cameroun**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Allégations de menaces et campagne de dénigrement contre deux femmes défenseures des droits de l'homme. Selon les informations reçues, le 23 février 2015, lors d'une émission intitulée "Le Mérite Panafricain" par la chaîne Afrique Media, plusieurs intervenants auraient accusé l'association Réseau des Défenseurs des Droits de l'Homme de l'Afrique Centrale (REDHAC) de répondre à des intérêts étrangers visant à déstabiliser le pays et à questionner son indépendance. Ils auraient également menacés d'incendier son siège. En outre, sa directrice, Mme Maximilienne Ngo Mbe, aurait été menacée de mort si elle poursuivait ses activités, alors que sa présidente, Mme Alice Nkom, aurait, quant à elle, été victime de propos diffamatoires. La campagne de dénigrement aurait continué le 1er mars 2015, lors d'une émission télévisée, intitulée "Débat panafricain" et ensuite le 10 mars 2015, lors d'une émission diffusée par la Radio Balafon. Mme Ngo Mbe a fait l'objet de trois communications: le 8 avril 2010, voir A/HRC/16/44/Add.1, paras. 294–307, cas CMR 1/2010 ; le 5 août 2011, voir A/HRC/19/44, cas CMR 1/2011; le 13 août 2013, voir A/HRC/25/74, cas CMR 3/2013. Mme Nkom a fait l'objet de deux communications: le 5 novembre 2012, voir A/HRC/22/67/Corr. 2, cas CMR 5/2012; le 13 août 2013, voir A/HRC/25/74, cas CMR 3/2013.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
27/04/2015 JAL	CAN 1/2015 **Canada**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; ;Human rights defenders; Terrorism;**	Allegations concerning the compatibility of Bill C-51, also known as Anti-Terrorist Act, 2015, with international human rights law and standards, particularly as set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. According to the information received, Bill C-51, an "Act to enact the Security of Canada Information Sharing Act and the Secure Air Travel Act, to amend the Criminal Code, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act and the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act and to make related and consequential amendments to other Acts", was introduced in Parliament on 30 January 2015. The Bill is currently being considered by the House Committee on National Security and Defence. Pending approval it will eventually be re-introduced to the House of Commons for a final vote before it is enacted into Law.	28/04/2015
27/04/2015 JUA	SDN 2/2015 **Sudan**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Sudan; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and detention, inadequate conditions of detention, and charges against a human rights defender. According to the information received, on 26 March 2015, agents of the National Intelligence and Security Service (NISS) raided the Tracks Training Centre in Khartoum and confiscated the laptop and documents of Mr. Adil Bakheit who was conducting a human rights workshop. Subsequently, on 16 April 2015, Mr. Bakheit was arrested by NISS while attending a workshop at the Tracks Training Centre and detained at Al Awasat Police Station. On the same day, the State Security Prosecution Office charged him under the 1991 Criminal Act with, among others, "publication of false news", "calling for opposition to public authority through the use of violence or criminal force", "offences against the State undermining the constitutional system" and "waging war against the State" Concern is expressed at the allegations that charges were brought against Mr. Bakheit for his legitimate human rights activities as well as at reports indicating that harassment and criminal prosecution of human rights defenders in Sudan is on the rise.	

Date *Type*	*Case No.* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
27/04/2015 JAL	UGA 1/2015 **Uganda**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged non-compliance with international human rights law and standards of a recently published bill regulating associations which introduces undue limitations to the right to freedom of association. According to the information received, the Non-Governmental Organizations Bill, 2015, (NGO Bill) was published in the official Gazette of Uganda on 10 April 2015. The NGO Bill seeks to repeal and replace the "Non-Governmental Organisation Act Cap. 113" regulating the activities of NGOs in Uganda. Several provisions of the NGO Bill appear to seriously restrict the right to freedom of association as enshrined in international human rights law. Concerns are expressed that the NGO Bill, if adopted, may be part of a general trend to restrict the activities of associations in Uganda.	
27/04/2015 JUA	UZB 1/2015 **Uzbekistan**	**Arbitrary detention; Human rights defenders; Torture;**	Allegations of a new criminal case brought against a human rights defender after having served a nine year prison sentence as a result of his human rights work. According to the information received, Mr. Azamjon Formonov is due to be released from prison on 29 April 2015 after having served a nine year prison sentence, which he reportedly received due to his legitimate human rights work, at the U/Ya 64/71 Special Regime Colony in Jaslyk. However, on 12 April 2015, Mr. Formonov was transferred from his prison cell to a pre-trial isolation facility, where he is being held in solitary confinement. On 14 April 2015, Mr. Formonov's wife was reportedly informed that a new criminal case had been filed against her husband for alleged "violations of prison rules". If convicted, Mr. Formonov could face up to three additional years of imprisonment. Mr. Formonov suffers from various ailments; however he is reportedly being denied the adequate medical attention. Mr. Formonov was the subject of three previous communications sent on 10 May 2006 and 30 June 2006, see A/HRC/4/37/Add.1, case nos. UZB 13/2006 and UZB 15/2006; and on 9 December 2011, see A/HRC/20/30, case no. UZB 4/2011.	26/06/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
28/04/2015 AL	CHN 3/2015 **China (People's Republic of)**	**Discrimination against women;**	Follow up letter to the recommendations made by the Working Group in its report on its official visit to China from 12 to 19 December 2013. In this letter, the Working Group requests an update on the implementation of the recommendations it made in its country visit report (A/HRC/26/39/Add.2). In addition, while reaffirming its appreciation for the Government's cooperation during and after the visit, the Working Group raises questions about measures taken to overcome persistent challenges and barriers, especially regarding the situation of women human rights defenders, the enforceability of existing equality guarantees in national legislation, actions against domestic violence, women's equal participation in economic and social life, the rights of women in vulnerable situations, as well as actions and measures taken to raise public awareness gender equality and women's rights.	25/06/2015
30/04/2015 JAL	BGD 2/2015 **Bangladesh**	**Freedom of expression; Summary executions;**	Allegations concerning attacks on and killings of two Bangladesh-based journalists for exercising their right to freedom of expression. According to the information received, on 30 March 2015, three men attacked and killed Mr. Washiqur Rahman Babu, author of his own blog named Kutshit Hasher Chhana (Ugly Duckling), on his way to work in Dhaka. Reports indicate that Mr. Rahman was attacked for his writings on religion. Police allegedly arrested two suspects for the murder and is searching for a third man. On 26 February 2014, Mr. Avijit Roy, founder of the blogging platform Mukto-Mona, and his wife were attacked by assailants wielding sharp weapons on the Dhaka University campus while leaving a book fair. Mr. Roy was killed and his wife critically injured. Mr. Roy, who was known for his advocacy for the rights of atheists and his criticism of religious fundamentalism, had publicly reported explicit threats received from militant Islamist groups, including a death threat from a well-known Islamist activist. An arrest has reportedly been made following Mr. Roy's murder.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
30/04/2015 JUA	BDI 3/2015 **Burundi**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions; Truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-rec;**	Allégations relatives à l'usage excessif de la force par la police contre des manifestants qui aurait entrainé la mort de plusieurs d'entre eux, ainsi qu'à l'arrestation de plus de 200 manifestants, à la suspension de l'émission de plusieurs radios et à l'arrestation et détention provisoire d'un défenseur des droits de l'homme. Selon les informations reçues, le 26 avril 2015, de larges manifestations pacifiques auraient eu lieu à Bujumbura contre la candidature de l'actuel président Pierre Nkurunziza à la prochaine élection présidentielle. La police aurait tenté de disperser les manifestants et utilisé des gaz lacrymogènes, des canons à eau, des grenades et des armes à feux à balles réelles. Certains rapports indiquent un bilan d'au moins six morts, dont un policier, et 15 blessés au cours des affrontements, et plus de 200 arrestations de manifestants. Le gouvernement aurait interdit la réalisation et émission de reportages en direct des lieux des manifestations par la Radio Publique Africaine (RPA), la Radio Isanganiro et la Radio Bonesha FM. Le 27 avril 2015, M. Pierre-Claver Mbonimpa, défenseur des droits de l'homme, aurait été arrêté à la Maison de la Presse de Bujumbura alors qu'il s'y rendait pour donner une interview. M. Mbonimpa a fait l'objet de communications précédentes envoyées le 26 novembre 2009, voir A/HRC/13/22/Add.1, paras. 213- 218, cas BDI 3/2009 et le 28 mai 2014, voir A/HRC/27/72, cas BDI 1/2014.	04/05/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
30/04/2015 JAL	KHM 1/2015 **Cambodia**	**Adequate housing; Cambodia; Indigenous peoples;**	Alleged forced eviction and land appropriation of Bunong indigenous community in Cambodia. According to the information received, in early December 2014, Binh Phouc Rubber Company 1 bulldozed property and farmland occupied since the 1940s by approximately 211 families in Mondulkiri province. Subsequently, on 31 March 2015, company representatives, supported by approximately 90 armed police officers and a provincial prosecutor, who had reportedly been instructed to arrest any protestors, bulldozed additional land and approximately 170 temporary residential structures where individuals and families reside on seasonal basis when planting crops and cultivating land for several months at a time. The Mondulkiri Provincial Governor threatened local NGO members with arrest if they attempted to enter the area to monitor the situation. Both the evictions and the Company's lease of the land allegedly contravene the community's property rights under domestic law. They have submitted complaints to District authorities, the Provincial Governor's office, the National Assembly and others, and are currently left without additional recourse to protect their land.	
30/04/2015 JUA	DOM 1/2015 **Dominican Republic**	**Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;**	Alegaciones de amenazas de muerte contra varios periodistas por cubrir noticias en relación con la situación de ciudadanos de ascendencia haitiana en la República Dominicana. Según la información recibida, los Sres. Juan Bolivar Diaz, Luis Eduardo Lora Iglesias y Roberto Cavada, y la Sra. Amelia Deschamps habrían recibido amenazas de muerte, a través de folletos indicando "muerte a los traidores" y amenazas verbales, incluyendo por parte de un presunto miembro del grupo autodenominado "Movimiento Patriótico Independiente", quien habria hecho un llamado público a asesinar a los periodistas llamándoles "traidores anti-dominicanos". El 3 de febrero de 2015, las autoridades habrían informado sobre el inicio de una investigación. Se reporta que a la fecha los responsables de las amenazas de muerte no habrían sido identificados.	

Date *Type*	*Case No.* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
30/04/2015 JUA	ISR 1/2015 **Israel**	**Adequate housing; Independence of judges and lawyers; OPT;**	Alleged imminent forced eviction of a Palestinian family of eight, including two children, from their home in the Old City, East Jerusalem. According to the information received, on 14 September 2014, an eviction order was issued by an Israeli Magistrate Court against the Ghaith-Sub Laban family following a petition by a Trust, related to a number of Israeli settler organizations, claiming that the family had abandoned their home and thus lost their protected tenant status. Reportedly, no opportunity was given to refute this claim in the issuing Court and testimonies were only heard from settlers. Allegedly, the magistrate that presided over this case is a settler herself, calling into question her impartiality. Twice, on 9 February 2015 and 16 March 2015, attempts were made to evict the family, despite the fact that an appeal to the eviction order is pending. Concerns are raised that the forced eviction would violate the right to adequate housing, rights of due process and procedural fairness, and provisions under international humanitarian law.	
30/04/2015 JUA	MEX 5/2015 **México**	**Disappearances; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alegaciones sobre presuntos actos intimidatorios contra organizaciones integrantes de la Red Nacional en Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (RENDDH). Según la información recibida, desde el 2 de febrero de 2015, día en que iniciaron las actividades en la ciudad de Oaxaca para dar a conocer la "Gira Nacional: Desaparición Forzada en México. Caso Gabriel Alberto Cruz Sánchez y Edmundo Reyes Amaya", los integrantes de organizaciones defensoras de derechos humanos, se habrían percatado de la presencia y seguimiento físico de personas vestidas de civil que vigilarían sus actividades. Asimismo, habrían sido víctimas de amenazas y hostigamientos durante la Gira Nacional. Estos hechos de intimidación y hostigamiento buscarían limitar las acciones de denuncia iniciadas durante la "Gira Nacional".	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
30/04/2015 JAL	USA 10/2015 **United States of America**	**African descent; Health; Torture;**	Allegations of racial discrimination against people of African descent and lack of access to appropriate medical treatment whilst in detention. According to the information received, Mr. Mumia Abu-Jamal (born Wesley Cook), a 61-year-old Afro-American detainee in State Correctional Institution at Mahanoy, Pennsylvania, has not had access to appropriate medical treatment while in detention. As a consequence his health situation has deteriorated over the past few months resulting in his admission to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a nearby clinic on 30 March 2015 in diabetic shock. It is alleged that as he had three "comprehensive" blood tests since February 2015, diabetes should have been diagnosed and treated accordingly. Instead his medical condition was reportedly ignored by the prison guards. Mr. Abu-Jamal was allegedly detained following an unfair trial which found him guilty of murder of a police officer in 1981. He is reportedly serving a life sentence without parole and has not been given a re-sentencing hearing in violation of Pennsylvania constitutional and statutory law. During his years in detention he has been active in writing about racial discrimination in the criminal justice system and advocating for justice and the rights of his fellow detainees.	24/06/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
01/05/2015 JAL	ZAF 1/2015 **South Africa**	**African descent; Migrants; Racism; Summary executions;**	Alleged incidents of racial and xenophobic violence, and attacks perpetrated against immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in different parts of South Africa. According to the information received, between 6 and 29 April 2015, at least four foreigners and three South African nationals, including a 14-year-old boy, were killed in attacks in Durban, properties were looted and over 1,000 people, including refugees and asylum-seekers, were displaced. The attacks targeted African immigrants, including those from Zimbabwe, Ethiopia and Somalia, and included violence against journalists covering these incidents and police. The unrests started in Isipingo and Chatsworth, where several grocery shops owned by foreign nationals were vandalized, and spread to KwaMakhutha and Umlazi. It is alleged that these attacks have left some 5,300 foreigners homeless in Durban; these persons are being assisted in four sites through municipal and provincial disaster management responses. Also, approximately 1,800 people are estimated displaced in Ekurhuleni Municipality in Gauteng following similar attacks. These attacks on foreigners follow previous ones which took place between May and June 2014, where several incidents of racially motivated violence and attacks carried out against foreigners and migrants occurred, especially in the provinces of KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng.	
04/05/2015 JUA	IRQ 1/2015 **Iraq**	**Discrimination against women; Freedom of religion; Minority issues; Sale of children; Slavery; Summary executions; Violence against women;**	Allegations of mass summary executions of Yezidi men and of forced conversion to Islam and deportation of Yezidi women and girls held captive by the so-called Islamic State from Iraq to Syria. According to the information received, up to 2,500 members of the Yezidi minority community, who are being held by the so-called Islamic State (ISIL) in the territory of Tal Afar in Iraq's Nineveh province, have been forced to convert to Islam. Older girls and young women have allegedly been sold to, abused, sexually exploited and enslaved by ISIL fighters. On 26 April 2015, ISIL troops moved the 2,500 captive members of the Yezidi minority community to a school in Tal Afar. Subsequently, up to 700 men and teenage boys were reportedly separated from the rest of the group and moved to the village of Jino near Tal Afar. Furthermore, girls of a young age were reportedly also separated from the rest of the group. On 27 April 2015, up to 400 Yezidi men, from the above-mentioned group, were executed in an unknown location in Ayathiya and/or Zummar sub-districts. The remaining women and children are allegedly to be moved to Syria.	

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04/05/2015 JAL	MAR 2/2015 **Maroc**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Allégations de diverses restrictions au droit de réunion pacifique et à la liberté d'association d'une organisation de défense des droits de l'homme. Selon les informations reçues, depuis le mois de juillet 2014, l'Association marocaine des droits de l'homme (AMDH) fait l'objet de diverses restrictions quant à son droit de tenir des réunions pacifiques pour la protection et promotion des droits de l'homme. Il est également rapporté que l'administration a refusé de réceptionner des documents, ou de délivrer à diverses sections de l'association le récépissé confirmant leur notification de la composition d'un nouveau comité directeur ou de nouveaux statuts, tel que prévu par la législation nationale.	
05/05/2015 JAL	HND 1/2015 **Honduras**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alegaciones sobre declaraciones difamatorias contra una organización de derechos humanos. Según las informaciones recibidas, entre el 6 y el 13 de abril de 2015, altos funcionarios habrían realizado una serie de declaraciones públicas que estigmatizarían y pondrían en situación de vulnerabilidad la labor de defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos en Honduras, incluido la de los miembros de Plataforma EPU, una red de organizaciones de la sociedad civil que se han agrupado para participar del segundo Examen Periódico Universal (EPU), al que se someterá el Estado de Honduras el 8 de mayo del 2015.	
06/05/2015 AL	MDA 4/2015 **Republic of Moldova**	**Disability;**	Alleged deletion of two key provisions from an omnibus legislative bill concerning persons with disabilities, which will be subject to a second reading in the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on 7 May 2015. According to the information received, the bill was originally introduced at the initiative of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, with proposals for three amendments which would advance the Republic of Moldova's implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Nevertheless, it appears that the proposals relating to establishing the right to vote for persons under guardianship, and recognizing the right of persons under guardianship to have legal standing to challenge in court decisions on their placement under guardianship, have been excluded by the Parliamentary Committee from the bill currently under consideration by Parliament.	11/06/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
07/05/2015 JUA	SWZ 2/2015 **Swaziland**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Independence of judges and lawyers;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and continued pre-trial detention of, as well as charges of sedition and terrorism brought against, two political activists for exercising their right to freedom of opinion, expression, association and peaceful assembly. According to the information received, Mr. Mario Masuku, the president of the political party 'the People's United Democratic Movement' (PUDEMO), and Mr. Maxwell Dlamini, the secretary general of the party's youth wing, the Swaziland Youth Congress (SWAYOCO), were arrested on 1 May 2014 following a peaceful political rally on charges of sedition and terrorism for making critical statements of the government and judiciary of Swaziland. The legal proceedings governing their applications for bail have been marred by irregularities that bring into question the independence and impartiality of the court. The prolonged period of pre-trial detention has adversely affected Mr. Masuku and Mr. Dlamini's health and well-being. Both men are still held in pre-trial detention and an appeal hearing to review the denial of bail originally scheduled in May 2015 was reportedly postponed indefinitely.	
07/05/2015 JAL	USA 9/2015 **United States of America**	**Migrants; Summary executions;**	Allegations of summary executions of three Mexican nationals in the United States of America. According to the information received, Mr. Antonio Zambrano-Montes, Mr. Ernesto Javier Canepa Diaz and a 31-year-old man, all three Mexican immigrants, were killed by police officers in February 2015 in different parts of the United States of America, allegedly as a result of disproportionate use of firearms. These incidents happened respectively on 10 February in Pasco, Washington; on 20 February in the City of Grapevine, Texas; and on 27 February, in Santa Ana, California. Concern is expressed at the circumstances of these killings, which appear to be the consequence of an excessive use of force by the police, and that the victims may have been shot while they did not carry any firearms that may have posed a threat to the safety of the police officers involved at the time of the shootings.	25/06/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
08/05/2015 AL	BRN 1/2015 **Brunei Darussalam**	**Discrimination against women;**	Follow up letter following the Government's response to communication BRN 2/2014 which concerned allegations of discriminatory provisions against women in domestic legislation. The Working Group thanks the additional information provided by the Government on gender equality in domestic legal provisions. It requests additional information on the actions taken to incorporate the obligations stemming from the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in accordance with the accepted recommendation 113.79 it received during the UPR process. The above-mentioned previous communication was sent to the Government on 14 November 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. BRN 2/2014.	15/05/2015
08/05/2015 AL	KHM 2/2015 **Cambodia**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association;**	Allegations of imminent adoption of the draft Law on Associations and Non-Governmental Organizations (LANGO). According to the information received, LANGO may by adopted by Parliament in May 2015. Information suggests that LANGO includes problematic provisions that seem to violate the right of association, such as vague or ambiguous definitions, bureaucratic registration processes, unrealistic membership requirements, additional burdensome processes on foreign NGOs, reporting obligations and requirements related to staff recruitment, notification of activities and inspection of reports of financial status. Reportedly, there is no established process that requires meaningful public consultation on the draft Law and there is concern that this draft may retain problematic provisions from a 2011 version, which was the subject of a previous communication on 13 May 2011, see A/HRC/18/51, case no. KHM 3/2011.	
08/05/2015 AL	KWT 3/2015 **Kuwait**	**Discrimination against women;**	Allegations of discriminatory provisions against women contained in Kuwaiti nationality legislation. According to the information received, Kuwaiti women continue to be denied the right to pass their nationality onto their children on an equal basis with Kuwaiti men. The current communication is sent in follow-up to the Government reply received to the previous communication on the same issue dated 14 November 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. KWT 3/2014.	

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
08/05/2015 JUA	PRY 1/2015 **Paraguay**	**Discrimination against women; Health; Torture; Violence against women;**	Alegaciones de falta de debida diligencia por parte del Estado Paraguayo para prevenir abusos sexuales de una niña embarazada de 10 años, y asegurar una protección y tratamiento adecuado que garantice la integridad física y mental de la niña. De acuerdo con la información recibida, el 21 de abril de 2015, se estableció un embarazo de 21 semanas a un niña de 10 años, que presuntamente fue el resultado de los abusos sexuales reiterados por un pariente cercano, aunque su madre había denunciado los abusos sexuales al Ministerio Publico en 2014. A pesar de las solicitudes, en conformidad con la ley, de la madre de la niña y de expertos médicos, de acuerdo con la ley, para terminar el embarazo que pone en riesgo la vida de la niña, el Estado no ha tomado medidas para proteger la salud, así como la integridad física y mental e incluso la vida, de la niña de 10 años. La ley del aborto en Paraguay es muy restrictiva y sólo autoriza la interrupción del embarazo cuando la vida de la madre está en riesgo.	12/05/2015 20/05/2015
08/05/2015 JAL	VEN 5/2015 **Venezuela**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alegaciones sobre una nueva serie de actos de vigilancia, hostigamiento, intimidación y difamación contra defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos por su participación en sesiones de la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos. El 11 y el 18 de febrero de 2015, en su programa semanal "Con el Mazo Dando" el Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional hizo referencia expresa a varios defensores de derechos humanos que caracterizó como conspiradores. Entre el 20 y el 23 de marzo de 2015, fuentes nos indican que varios prominentes defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos fueron objeto de intimidaciones y seguimiento a su llegada al aeropuerto de Maiquetia tras su viaje de regreso a Venezuela. Algunas de las personas mencionadas fueron objeto de comunicaciones anteriores: el 25 de mayo de 2004 (caso no. 4/2004), véase E/CN/2005/101/Add.1; el 19 de marzo de 2010 (caso no. 4/2010), véase A/HRC/16/44/Add.1; el 11 de julio de 2011 (caso no. 2/2011), véase A/HRC/20/30; el 23 de marzo de 2012 (caso no. 1/2012), véase A/HRC/21/49; el 11 de junio de 2012 (caso no. 4/2012)., véase A/HRC/22/67; el 16 de noviembre de 2012 (caso no. 7/2012), véase A/HRC/22/67; el 3 de marzo de 2014 (caso no. 1/2014), véase A/HRC/27/72; y el 19 de febrero de 2015.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
11/05/2015 JAL	MMR 5/2015 **Myanmar**	**Discrimination against women; Freedom of religion; Health; Minority issues; Myanmar; Racism;**	Alleged discriminatory nature of a package of four Bills seeking to "protect race and religion". According to the information received, the Bills discriminate against ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women. The Religious Conversion Bill establishes a State-regulated system for changing religion, which contravenes the right to freedom of religion and belief. The Population Control Healthcare Bill adopts a selective and coercive approach to improving living standards. This includes a potential requirement of birth spacing that would violate women's right to choose freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and could be used to target areas with large minority communities. The Buddhist Women's Special Marriage Bill regulates interfaith marriages between Buddhist women and non-Buddhist men and is discriminatory on many grounds. The Monogamy Bill adopts a restrictive and discriminatory approach to marriage regulation. The Religious Conversion Bill was the subject of a previous communication sent on 19 June 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. MMR 4/2014.	
11/05/2015 JAL	USA 6/2015 **United States of America**	**African descent; Health; Toxic waste;**	Allegation that members of a family in the United States of America suffered and continue to suffer from the adverse impact of toxic mercury which was used as a form of treatment for a sexually transmitted disease in the Rosenwald Fund Study. According to the information received, the Rosenwald Fund Study was launched in 1929 by the Government and involved approximately 40,000 African-Americans from six southern states. It is alleged that participants of the study, including Mr. Chester Noel and other members of his family, have suffered from the adverse effect of mercury and that multiple generations of the Noel family, including Ms. Helen Noel, as the descendants of the original victims exposed to mercury continue to suffer from adverse health impacts. Furthermore, it is alleged that the Government has not investigated these allegations and as a result the subjects of the Rosenwald Fund Study and their descendants have not received an effective remedy.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
12/05/2015 UA	SLV 1/2015 **El Salvador**	**Disappearances;**	Presuntos actos intimidatorios y de hostigamiento contra familiares de víctimas de desaparición forzada. Según la información recibida, desde la desaparición de los Sres. Oscar Oswaldo Leiva Mejía, Francisco Javier Hernández Gómez y José Fernando Choto Choto el 18 de febrero de 2014, en Armenia, Sonsonate, El Salvador, sus familiares habrían sido víctimas de diversos hechos intimidatorios, particularmente en sus viviendas. El Sr. José Amilcar Choto Pleitéz, agente de la Policía Civil Nacional y padre del Sr. José Fernando Choto Choto, sería víctima constante de acosos laborales desde la desaparición de su hijo.	31/07/2015
12/05/2015 JUA	ETH 3/2015 **Ethiopia**	**Health; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Summary executions; Terrorism; Torture;**	Allegations of denial of adequate medical attention to a British human rights defender in the custody of Ethiopian authorities as well as of an arbitrary death sentence pronounced against him. According to the information received, Mr. Andargachew Tsege, who was the subject of forced rendition from Yemen to Ethiopia on 23 June 2014, is being held in incommunicado and prolonged solitary confinement in Ethiopia. The British Ambassador to Ethiopia has, on three occasions, been granted brief access to Mr. Tsege; all three visits have been in the presence of security staff and in a location separate from where Mr. Tsege is being detained. Mr. Tsege's mental and physical health is reportedly deteriorating rapidly, however he has not had access to a doctor. Grave concern is expressed at the allegedly arbitrary death sentence pronounced against Mr. Tsege and his potential execution; at the deteriorating mental and physical health of Mr. Tsege; and at his incommunicado and prolonged solitary detention, and at the alleged denial of access to adequate medical care and lawyer. Mr. Tsege was the subject of an earlier communication sent on 27 February 2015, see A/HRC/29/50, case no. ETH 1/2015.	

Date Type	Case No. Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
12/05/2015 JAL	IRN 4/2015 **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Freedom of religion; Iran; Minority issues;**	Alleged mass arrest and harassment of Ahwazi Arab minorities in Khuzestan Province. According to the information received, on 14 March 2015, Mr. X, an Ahwazi Arab, reportedly set himself on fire in response to repeated harassment from local authorities regarding licensure of his produce stand. Mr. X reportedly later died as a result of inadequate medical attention to his burns. In response, protests were held in several Arab-majority cities. On 17 March 2015, about one thousand protestors were reportedly detained in Ahwaz and released only after signing a pledge. Several protestors remain incarcerated with criminal charges pending against them. Following Mr. X's death, his family has reportedly been harassed by authorities. From mid-March to April 2015, up to one hundred Ahwazi Arabs, including activists and several minors, were arrested without warrants by armed masked men following peaceful protests leading up to the tenth anniversary of the 15 April 2005 Ahwazi uprising.	
13/05/2015 JUA	SAU 2/2015 **Saudi Arabia**	**Freedom of religion; Summary executions;**	Alleged imposition of the death penalty after a trial that did not comply with due process and fair trial guarantees. According to the new information received, Mr. Sheikh Nimr Baqir Al-Nimr, who was sentenced to death on 15 October 2014 after a trial that allegedly did not meet the most stringent due process and fair trial guarantees, has been subjected to increasing ill-treatment. In addition, it has been reported that in April 2015 the authorities performed a medical intervention to extract a bullet from his body to prepare him for the execution. It is reported that it is a common practice in the country to remove, prior to an execution, all foreign objects from a person, which suggests that his execution may be imminent. Mr. Sheikh Nimr Baqir Al-Nimr was the subject of two previous communications sent on 28 August 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. SAU 7/2014, and on 17 November 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. SAU 12/2014.	18/05/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
15/05/2015 JUA	BHR 3/2015 **Bahrain**	**Arbitrary detention; Health; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, charges, detention, torture and conviction of 39 minors after trials that did not respect international standards of fair trial and due process. According to the information received, since 23 January 2012, 39 minors have been arrested, charged and detained. All detained minors have been subjected to forms of beatings, torture and ill-treatment, including being held in solitary confinement, to force them to sign confessions to crimes. Information received also indicates lack of access to medical care for those injured in detention, as well as denial of appropriate medical care for those with disabilities and particular medical conditions. Most of the minors have been charged with multiple criminal offences and approximately half of them have been convicted, with sentences ranging from 6 months to 43 years imprisonment. 33 of the minors remain in detention to date, either serving their sentence or awaiting trial. Two of the minors were the subject of a previous urgent appeal, dated 14 August 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. BHR 11/2014.	13/07/2015
15/05/2015 JUA	RUS 2/2015 **Russian Federation**	**Minority issues; Racism;**	Alleged imminent forced eviction of 53 members of a Roma community from their settlement in the city of Irkutsk, Russian Federation. According to the information received, 53 members of a Roma community in Irkutsk, including 34 minors, were facing imminent forced eviction on 15 May 2015. Concern is expressed that the eviction may be the result of discriminatory practices against Roma people in the region, that the impact of the eviction was not been properly assessed and that alternatives to eviction, including strategies for minimizing harm, had not been fully explored.	15/07/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
15/05/2015 JAL	USA 11/2015 **United States of America**	**Adequate housing; Extreme poverty; Water and Sanitation;**	Alleged large-scale disconnection of water services disproportionally affecting poor African-American or Black households in the city of Baltimore. According to the information received, the Department of Public Works of the City of Baltimore has started to disconnect water services for households who are six months or more in arrears of more than 250 USD providing only a ten-day notice. The City announced plans to disconnect about 150 household per day starting at the end of March 2015. The combination of high poverty rates and water and sanitation bills which have tripled since 2000 has made water increasingly unaffordable for a large number of households. The assistance programme, which offers 161 USD to certain low-income households, is reported to be insufficient and difficult to access because of procedural and documentation requirements. These disconnections affect several rights, including the right to life, to health, to housing, and to water and sanitation.	
18/05/2015 JUA	COL 1/2015 **Colombia**	**Disappearances; Human rights defenders;**	Presuntos actos intimidatorios y de hostigamiento contra una integrante del MOVICE (sección Barrancabermeja) y del Colectivo 16 de mayo. Según la información recibida, la Sra. Rocío Campos Pérez sufriría continuo hostigamiento y amenazas de muerte en contra de su persona debido a su trabajo con diferentes grupos poblacionales. Anteriormente, la Sra. Rocío Campos Pérez fue objeto de una comunicación enviada el 2 de agosto de 2013, ver A/HRC/25/74, caso COL 8/2013.	
18/05/2015 JUA	ESP 8/2015 **Spain**	**Disability; Health;**	Presuntas violaciones del derecho a la educación inclusiva y discriminación de una niña autista. De acuerdo con la información recibida, desde el 20 de marzo de 2015, una niña autista de 10 años ha sido excluida del sistema general de educación, cuando en un colegio de la provincia de Málaga, las familias de sus compañeros de clase expresaron rechazo a su presencia en el aula, mediante una huelga, afectando su salud física y mental. Siguiendo las recomendaciones de los profesionales que acompañan el desarrollo de la niña, los padres decidieron que dejara de acudir a clase y solicitaron a la Delegación Territorial de Educación, Cultura y Deporte en Málaga su reubicación urgente en otro colegio. Esta solicitud se fundamentó, tanto en la falta de ajustes razonables y de recursos necesarios, como en la imposibilidad de reconstruir un entorno educativo adecuado. Hasta la fecha la niña continua excluida del sistema regular d'educación.	04/08/2015

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19/05/2015 JUA	IRN 5/2015 **Iran (Islamic Republic of)**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Health; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Iran;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, detention and unfair trial of a human rights defender. According to the information received, on 5 May 2015, Ms. Narges Mohammadi, the Deputy Director and Spokeswoman for the Centre for Human Rights Defenders (CHRD) and founder of the civil society group "Step by step to stop the death penalty" (LEGAM), was arrested at her home by intelligence ministry agents that stated that she was being taken into custody in order to serve the remainder of her six-year prison sentence that she received on 22 April 2012. She was provisionally released on 31 July 2012 for medical reasons linked to the medical treatment she received in prison. Two days prior to Ms. Mohammadi's arrest, she appeared before Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran for her first session of trial where she faces new charges, including "propaganda against the state", "assembly and collusion against the state" and "establishing the anti-security and illegal Step by Step to Stop Death Penalty" group. The defence team was unable to review the case file prior to the trial. Ms. Mohammadi has been the subject of several previous communications sent on 23 June 2010, see A/HRC/16/44/Add.1, paras. 1220 - 1225, 11 October 2011, see A/HRC/19/44, case no. IRN 13/2011, and 27 March 2012, see A/HRC/21/49, case no. IRN 5/2012.	
20/05/2015 AL	DZA 2/2015 **Algérie**	**Discrimination against women;**	Lettre concernant des normes discriminatoires envers les femmes dans le Code de la famille algérien de 1984 modifié par Ordonnance N° 05-02 du 27 février 2005. Selon les informations reçues, les articles 8, 11, 30, 48, 53 et 54 du Code de la famille algérien de 1984 sont discriminatoires à l'égard de la femme et stipulent en outre que la polygamie est autorisée, qu'un tuteur masculin est imposé pour le mariage, qu'il est interdit aux femmes de religion musulmane d'épouser des non-musulmans et que les motifs de divorce sont plus restreints pour les femmes que pour les hommes.	
20/05/2015 AL	BDI 4/2015 **Burundi**	**Discrimination against women;**	Lettre concernant des normes discriminatoires envers les femmes dans le Code des Personnes et de la Famille du Burundi issu du décret/loi N° 1/024 du 28 Avril 1993. Selon les informations reçues, l'article 122 est discriminatoire à l'égard de la femme et stipule en outre, que le mari est le chef de la famille.	07/08/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
20/05/2015 AL	COD 1/2015 **Democratic Republic of the Congo**	**Discrimination against women;**	Lettre concernant des normes discriminatoires envers les femmes dans le Code de la Famille congolais de 1987. Selon les informations reçues, les articles 352, 353, 444, 448, 450, 454 et 497 du Code de la famille de la République démocratique du Congo de 1987 sont discriminatoires à l'égard de la femme et stipulent en outre que le mari est le chef du ménage et que l'épouse lui doit obéissance, qu'une femme doit obtenir la permission de son mari pour tous les actes juridiques dans lesquels elle s'oblige à une prestation qu'elle doit effectuer en personne, que le mari détermine la résidence familiale et peut gérer et administrer les biens de son épouse.	
20/05/2015 JUA	MKD 2/2015 **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest, detention and prosecution of a large number of individuals in the context of peaceful protests in the city of Skopje between 5 and 13 May 2015. According to the information received, on 5 May 2015, 42 people were arrested and detained for their presumed role in peaceful protests denouncing police brutality and the lack of accountability for the killing of a protestor on 6 June 2011, which occurred in the context of the post-2011 parliamentary election celebrations, in Skopje. Information further suggests that out of these 42 people, 12 were placed in pre-trial detention and face criminal charges and that an additional four individuals were arrested and placed in pre-trial detention under the same charges on 13 May 2015. Allegedly, the pre-trial detention of these individuals is used to prevent them from taking part in the ongoing peaceful demonstrations.	30/07/2015
21/05/2015 AL	CUB 1/2015 **Cuba**	**Discrimination against women;**	Carta relativa a las normas discriminatorias contra la mujer en el Código de Familia cubano de 1975. Según las informaciones recibidas, el artículo 3 del Código de la Familia de 1975 de la República de Cuba discrimina a la mujer y estipula la diferencia de edad legal entre hombres y mujeres a la hora de contraer matrimonio.	23/07/2015
21/05/2015 AL	DOM 2/2015 **Dominican Republic**	**Discrimination against women;**	Carta relativa a las normas discriminatorias contra la mujer en el Código Civil de la República Dominicana. Según las informaciones recibidas, los artículos 144 y 148 del Código Civil dominicano discriminan a la mujer y estipulan la diferencia de edad legal entre hombres y mujeres a la hora de contraer matrimonio.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
21/05/2015 AL	GIN 2/2015 **Guinea**	**Discrimination against women;**	Lettre concernant des normes discriminatoires envers les femmes dans le Code Civil de la République de Guinée de 1983. Selon les informations reçues, les articles 328 et 331 du Code Civil de la République de Guinée de 1983 sont discriminatoires à l'égard de la femme et stipulent en outre que le mari peut s'opposer à ce que sa femme exerce une profession séparée de celui-ci, et l'obliger à vivre dans une résidence choisie uniquement par lui-même.	
21/05/2015 JUA	IDN 5/2015 **Indonesia**	**Migrants; Summary executions; Torture; Trafficking;**	Allegations of "push back" policies of irregular migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. According to the information received, migrants have travelled irregularly through South-East Asia to enter the territorial waters of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Reportedly, after days of navigation resulting from repeated push backs from one country to another, irregular migrants had limited access to water and food, resulting in their death during their time at sea or after they had reached land. Serious concern is expressed about the push back policy implemented against irregular migrants entering territorial waters. Particular concern is expressed regarding their health and personal safety whilst at sea. Additional concern is expressed at the push back policy in instances where some may be asylum seekers leaving a country where they may face violence, persecution, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or other serious human rights violations.	

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21/05/2015 JUA	MYS 2/2015 **Malaysia**	**Migrants; Summary executions; Torture; Trafficking;**	Allegations of "push back" policies of irregular migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. According to the information received, migrants have travelled irregularly through South-East Asia to enter the territorial waters of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Reportedly, after days of navigation resulting from repeated push backs from one country to another, irregular migrants had limited access to water and food, resulting in their death during their time at sea or after they had reached land. Serious concern is expressed about the push back policy implemented against irregular migrants entering territorial waters. Particular concern is expressed regarding their health and personal safety whilst at sea. Additional concern is expressed at the push back policy in instances where some may be asylum seekers leaving a country where they may face violence, persecution, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or other serious human rights violations.	
21/05/2015 AL	MLI 1/2015 **Mali**	**Discrimination against women;**	Lettre concernant des normes discriminatoires envers les femmes dans la loi N°2011 – 087 de 2011 portant Code des Personnes et de la Famille du Mali. Selon les informations reçues, les articles 307, 316, 319, 366 et 373 du Code des Personnes et de la Famille du Mali de 2011 sont discriminatoires à l'égard de la femme et stipulent en outre que la polygamie est autorisée, que l'épouse doit obéissance à son mari, que le mari est le chef de famille et a le droit de déterminer la résidence familiale et que les femmes veuves ou divorcées, contrairement aux hommes, ne doivent pas se remarier avant un délai d'au moins trois mois à compter de la dissolution du mariage.	

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21/05/2015 AL	NRU 1/2015 **Nauru**	**Freedom of expression;**	Alleged restrictions on the right to freedom of expression in Nauru, including prohibitive price of visa application fees for foreign journalists, the blocking of social media websites and the amendments made to the Criminal Code. According to the information received, on 30 January 2014, an application fee of 8,000 Australian Dollars (approximately 6,500 USD) was introduced for media business visas only, allegedly creating a deterrent effect for foreign journalists to access Nauru and report on the situation in the country. On 30 April 2015, a ban on social media websites, including Facebook, was allegedly introduced by the Government, restricting access to information and communication within and outside the country. On 12 May 2015, an amendment to the Criminal Code of Nauru was introduced, which broadly criminalises the publication of a number of materials and statements, defined in broad terms that do not comply with minimum international standards and unduly restrict the right to freedom of information and expression. Concerns are expressed at reports that allege that these measures aim at preventing the dissemination of opinions and ideas that are critical of the Government and at preventing the dissemination and access to information on the rights of asylum seekers and the conditions of detention in the immigration detention centres in Nauru.	
21/05/2015 JUA	THA 3/2015 **Thailand**	**Migrants; Summary executions; Torture; Trafficking;**	Allegations of "push back" policies of irregular migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the Bay of Bengal. According to the information received, migrants have travelled irregularly through South-East Asia to enter the territorial waters of Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia. Reportedly, after days of navigation resulting from repeated push backs from one country to another, irregular migrants had limited access to water and food, resulting in their death during their time at sea or after they had reached land. Serious concern is expressed about the push back policy implemented against irregular migrants entering territorial waters. Particular concern is expressed regarding their health and personal safety whilst at sea. Additional concern is expressed at the push back policy in instances where some may be asylum seekers leaving a country where they may face violence, persecution, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or other serious human rights violations.	22/05/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
22/05/2015 JAL	PHL 2/2015 **Philippines**	**Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary arrest and continued pre-trial detention of a United States citizen in the Philippines. According to the information received, Mr. Scott McMahon has been detained in Muntinlupa City Jail since 7 April 2011 after being arrested following rape charges that are allegedly fraudulent. It is reported that the rape accusations are an attempt to blackmail and retaliate against Mr. McMahon for an unrelated lawsuit. The legal proceedings governing his application for bail have been marred by irregularities that bring into question the competence, independence and impartiality of the court. The prolonged period of pre-trial detention and the bad conditions in prison have adversely affected Mr. McMahon's health and well-being. He remains in pre-trial detention.	
26/05/2015 JAL	CHL 1/2015 **Chile**	**Foreign debt; Truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-rec;**	Comunicación relativa a concesión de préstamos recibida durante la dictadura militar de Augusto Pinochet y posible complicidad financiera que habría contribuido a las violaciones manifiestas de los derechos humanos cometidas en Chile en ese período. La carta solicita información sobre las medidas tomadas para dar seguimiento a las conclusiones del informe de 1978 del Relator Especial de la Subcomisión de Prevención de Discriminaciones y Protección a las Minorías sobre el impacto de la ayuda económica y la asistencia extranjera sobre el respeto de los derechos humanos en Chile (E/CN.4/Sub.2/412, vols. I-IV), y sobre otras posibles medidas en favor de la investigación y análisis de estas cuestiones, por ejemplo en el marco de procedimientos judiciales, el trabajo de comisiones de la verdad, instancias académicas y sobre las medidas tomadas para que esta cuestión sea incorporada en el currículo de la educación pública.	

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
27/05/2015 JUA	THA 5/2015 **Thailand**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Summary executions;**	Alleged killing and attempted killing of former detainees charged with security-related offenses in Thailand, including three members of the Justice for Peace Network (JOP). According to the information received, on 23 January 2011, Mr. Masawee Masalae, a 41-year-old member of JOP, who had been detained and released on bail in 2010, was shot dead in Pattani Province. On 15 July 2013 Mr. Torlep Sapa-Ing, a 44-year-old member of JOP, who had been arrested and released on bail in 2012, was shot and injured in Yala province. On 29 June 2014, Mr. Rorsuwan Bu-Nae, a 27-year-old, who had been detained and released in 2009 and again in 2010, was shot and injured in Yala Province. On 6 December 2014, Mr. Arsae Niseng, a 40-year-old member of JOP, who had been arrested and released twice between 2009 and 2010, was shot twice and injured in Yala province. The authorities have reportedly failed to investigate these attacks.	02/06/2015
28/05/2015 JAL	SLV 2/2015 **El Salvador**	**Disability; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;**	Alegaciones sobre el presunto asesinato de dos defensores, padre e hijo, de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad en El Salvador. Según la información recibida, tanto el Sr. Israel Antonio Quintanilla –presidente de la Asociación de Lisiados de Guerra (ALGES) y persona con discapacidad- como su hijo el Sr. Carlos Alberto Quintanilla Zavala, habrían desaparecido el 1 de mayo de 2015 tras haber participado en la marcha del día de los trabajadores. El 4 de mayo de 2015, el cadáver del Sr. Quintanilla habría sido encontrado en Santa Cruz Turillo y el día siguiente, el cuerpo del Sr. Quintanilla Zavala habría sido hallado en las cercanías del cadáver de su padre. Preocupa que los presuntos asesinatos puedan estar ligados a su trabajo en defensa de los derechos de las personas con discapacidad a consecuencia del conflicto armado en El Salvador.	27/07/2015

Date Type	Case No Country	Mandate(s)	Summary of the allegation transmitted	Reply
28/05/2015 JAL	PER 1/2015 **Peru**	**Indigenous peoples; Toxic waste;**	Seguimiento al supuesto incumplimiento del gobierno de las recomendaciones del anterior relator especial, el Sr. James Anaya relacionadas con el caso de la contaminación petrolera en territorios indígenas en el denominado Lote 1-AB (actual Lote 192) ubicado en las cuencas de los ríos Pastaza, Tigre, Corrientes y Marañón, departamento de Loreto, donde viven los pueblos indígenas quechuas, kichwas, kukamas y urarinas. Según la información recibida y después de la comunicación urgente emitida (UA Per 3/2014), los resultados positivos del proceso de diálogo han resultado en la firma de un acuerdo entre el Gobierno de Perú, el gobierno regional de Loreto y los presidentes de FEDIQUEP (Federación Indígena Quechua del Pastaza), FECONACO (Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Corrientes), FECONAT (Federación de Comunidades Nativas del Alto Tigre) y ACODECOSPAT (Asociación Cocama de Desarrollo y Conservación San Pablo de Tipishca) el 10 de marzo de 2014.	27/07/2015
28/05/2015 JAL	MDA 3/2015 **Republic of Moldova**	**Extreme poverty; Minority issues;**	Alleged failure to fully implement the Moldova Roma Community Action Plan. According to the information received, the Government of Moldova has failed to place 48 Roma community mediators in 44 communities as originally envisaged by the Action Plan. The recent decentralization of the funding structure for the mediators has reportedly had the opposite effect and resulted in a decrease in the number of mediators engaged. The letter calls on the Government to fully implement the recommendations made by the former Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights following her country visit to Moldova in September 2013 and requests information on the development of a Roma Inclusion Action Plan for the next five-year period (2016-2020).	

Date *Type*	*Case No.* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
28/05/2015 JUA	SDN 3/2015 **Sudan**	**Arbitrary detention; Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Sudan;**	Alleged arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and interrogation of two human rights defenders. On 12 April 2015, Ms. Sandra Farouq Kodouda was forcibly removed from her car, before being released and left on a road in eastern Khartoum on 15 April 2015. Reportedly, there were signs of ill-treatment in detention. On 20 April 2015, Mr. Mustafa was arrested following an inquiry he made at the National Intelligence and Security Service office regarding Ms. Kodouda's abduction. He remains in detention but has not been formally charged. Ms. Kodouda was once again detained the same day. She was released on bail but her interrogation continued until 27 April 2015. The case against her remains open. Concern is expressed that the criminal prosecution of Ms. Kodouda and Mr. Mustafa may be a result of their peaceful and legitimate human rights activities in Sudan.	
28/05/2015 JUA	VEN 6/2015 **Venezuela**	**Arbitrary detention; Torture;**	Preocupación por la vida y la integridad física y psíquica del Sr. Daniel Omar Ceballos Morales, trasladado de manera sorpresiva al Centro de Reclusión 26 de Julio de San Juan de los M rros. Se informa que esta persona habría sido puesta en condición de aislamiento. El traslado de establecimiento penitenciario se habría realizado de manera sorpresiva, sin orden judicial y sin notificación previa a familiares y abogados. El Sr. Ceballos Morales fue materia de una comunicación de varios titulares de mandato de fecha 7 de agosto de 2014, la que no ha sido respondida. La detención de esta persona fue considerada arbitraria por el Grupo de Trabajo sobre la Detención Arbitraria en su Opinión No. 30/2014 (República Bolivariana de Venezuela) adoptada el 28 de agosto de 2014.	

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29/05/2015 JAL	AZE 2/2015 **Azerbaijan**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Health; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged pre-trial detention, charges and sentencing of human rights defenders as a result of their legitimate human rights work. According to the information received, on 16 April 2015, Nasimi District Court sentenced Mr. Rasul Jafarov, coordinator of Art of Democracy, an artistic campaign promoting human rights and democracy in Azerbaijan, to six and a half years in prison on charges of illegal business. On 22 April 2015, the same Court sentenced Mr. Intigam Aliyev, a human rights lawyer and head of the Legal Education Society, to seven years and six months in prison and a three-year ban from certain positions and activities. Reports indicate that Mr. Aliyev has been denied access to medical treatment while in detention. On 6 March 2015 and again on 14 May 2015, the same Court extended journalist Ms. Khadija Ismail's pre-trial detention. On 19 August 2014, new charges were brought against Mr. Emin Huseynov, chairman of the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety, who had been subject of a previous communication sent on 24 June 2008, see A/HRC/10/12/Add.1, case no. AZE 1/2008. Mr. Aliyev was the subject of two previous communications, dated 1 February 2013, see A/HRC/23/51, case no. AZE 2/2013 and 15 August 2014, see A/HRC/28/85, case no. AZE 5/2014. Ms. Ismail was the subject of a previous communication dated 1 February 2013, A/HRC/23/51, case no. AZE 2/2013. Mr. Jafarov was the subject of a previous communication dated 12 August 2014, A/HRC/28/85, case no. AZE 4/2014.	
29/05/2015 JAL	CHN 4/2015 **China (People's Republic of)**	**Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Independence of judges and lawyers; Torture;**	Alleged arbitrary detention and conviction of a former journalist. According to the information received, on 24 April 2014, Ms. Gao Yu, aged 70 and a prominent former journalist, went missing and no information concerning her fate or whereabouts was released until 8 May 2014 when officials confirmed that she had been detained by Beijing Police for "illegally obtaining" a secret document and "leaking State secrets abroad" to editors of a foreign website in August 2013. On 8 May 2014, she allegedly confessed to the charges on State television after the police had threatened to arrest her son. On 17 April 2015, she was convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison by the Beijing Third Intermediate People's Court. Ms. Gao Yu was the subject of a previous communication sent to on 7 December 2010, see A/HRC/18/51, case no. CHN 29/2010.	

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
29/05/2015 UA	ECU 2/2015 **Ecuador**	**Adequate housing;**	Alegato de desalojo forzoso de aproximadamente doscientas personas residentes en la cooperativa Mélida Toral, ubicada en la Isla Trinitaria, Guayaquil, el día 27 de Marzo de 2015. Se alega que el desalojo tuvo lugar de manera violenta, con uso de maquinaria pesada para derribar viviendas auto-construidas de caña y madera, y sin que se haya establecido previamente un plan de contingencia para las familias residentes en el sector. Se señala que entre los residentes desalojados se encontraban 93 niños y niñas, dos mujeres embarazadas y dos personas con discapacidad. Se sostiene que el desalojo forzoso se llevó a cabo de manera sorpresiva mientras estaban pendientes acciones de mediación dispuestas por la Defensoría del Pueblo del Ecuador. Conforme a la información recibida, a pesar de las semanas transcurridas, dichas personas permanecen sin techo y sin alternativas de vivienda adecuadas. Se expresa grave preocupación ya que los hechos alegados parecen indicar una violación prima facie del derecho a una vivienda adecuada. Se llama a las autoridades competentes a dar respuesta inmediata a la situación de las personas desalojadas.	
29/05/2015 JUA	EGY 7/2015 **Egypt**	**Arbitrary detention; Independence of judges and lawyers; Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged imposition of the death sentence against former President of Egypt and 105 other individuals on charges of escaping from prison. According to the information received, on 3 July 2013, Mr. Mohamed Morsi Eissa El Ayyat and his presidential team were arrested and placed in solitary confinement for months. In April 2015, Mr. Morsi was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the alleged arbitrary arrest, torture and use of force against protesters, following a trial that did not comply with international standards of fair trial and due process. On 16 May 2015, in a separate case, Mr. Morsi and 105 other defendants were recommended the death penalty by the Cairo Criminal Court on charges of having escaped from prison in January 2011, following again a trial that did not comply with international standards of fair trial and due process. On 13 November 2013, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued Opinion No. 39/2013 (Egypt) which considered arbitrary the detention of Mr. Morsi and of six former advisors, and asked for their immediate release.	30/07/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
29/05/2015 JAL	LAO 1/2015 **Lao People's Democratic Republic**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Allegations concerning the non-compliance of a draft Decree on associations and foundations with international law and standards related to the rights to freedom of association and of opinion and expression. According to the information received, a draft Decree regulating associations and foundations in the Lao People's Democratic Republic was being reviewed by the Ministry of Home Affairs at the time of writing this communication. Serious concern is expressed that numerous provisions contained in the draft Decree do not comply with international human rights law and standards pertaining to the freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of association including the ability for associations to operate freely without State's undue interference.	
29/05/2015 JAL	NIC 4/2015 **Nicaragua**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders;**	Alegaciones sobre presuntas agresiones y deportación arbitraria contra dos defensores de derechos humanos del Centro por la Justicia y el Derecho Internacional (CEJIL) que está basado en Costa Rica. Según la información recibida, los defensores de derechos humanos Señor Luis Carlos Buob Concha y Señora Marta González habrían viajado a Nicaragua el 15 de mayo de 2015 para sostener reuniones en el marco de su trabajo en la región por la defensa de los derechos humanos. En Nicaragua habrían sufrido agresiones y deportación arbitraria por parte de agentes migratorios, policía nacional y policía turística.	

B. Replies received between 1 May and 31 July 2015 relating to communications sent before 1 March 2015

11. The table below lists, in chronological order, communications dating before 1 March 2015 to which a reply or an additional reply has been received in the period between 1 May and 31 July 2015. Copies of the full text of the communications sent and the reply received during the reporting period can be accessed from the electronic version of this report available on the OHCHR website. Some names of individuals or other information have been rendered anonymous or otherwise unidentifiable.

Date Type	*Case No Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
04/04/2013 JUA	NOR 1/2013 **Norway**	**Disappearances; Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders; Summary executions; Torture;**	Alleged imminent risk of deportation of a human rights defender, who would be at risk of enforced disappearance, torture and being killed by the Pakistani security forces, if forcibly returned to Pakistan. According to the information received, Mr. Mohammad Anwar Baloch, a journalist and political activist from Balochistan province, Pakistan, applied for political asylum in Norway in 2010. After several years of legal proceedings his application was rejected. On 26 February 2013, the Norwegian Immigration Appeals Board/Utlendingnemnda (UNE) issued an order to Mr. Anwar requesting him to leave Norway by 4 April 2013. Mr. Anwar is one of the founders and a senior editor of the Baloch Unity Conference (BUC), an online news blog, which is highly critical of Pakistani Government's alleged atrocities in Balochistan province, Pakistan. Reportedly, Mr. Anwar has also been an active political and human rights campaigner. Allegedly if deported, Mr. Anwar might be one of the prime targets of Pakistani security agencies.	30/04/2014 18/05/2015
20/02/2014 AL	USA 5/2014 **United States of America**	**Indigenous peoples;**	Allegations made in follow up to the observations and recommendations made in the Special Rapporteur's report, "The situation of indigenous peoples in the United States of America" (A/HRC/21/47/Add.1) of 30 August 2012. Subsequent to the publication of this report, the Special Rapporteur has continued to monitor the situation of indigenous peoples in the United States. The allegations received indicate that many Native American tribes and other indigenous communities still face persistent barriers to the realization of their human rights as indigenous peoples, including with respect to land and sacred places, preservation of their languages and cultural artefacts, and the welfare of their children and communities. In addition, the Special Rapporteur has received information regarding ongoing grievances with special legal and policy regimes that affect indigenous peoples in Maine, Alaska, Hawaii and Guam.	12/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
08/07/2014 JUA	AUS 2/2014 **Australia**	**Migrants; Torture;**	Alleged incommunicado detention and imminent deportation of two groups of Sri Lankan asylum seekers and migrants, including a significant number of Tamils, to Sri Lanka, by the Australian government. According to the information received, between 26 and 28 June 2014, two boats carrying 153 and 50 Sri Lankan asylum seekers and migrants respectively, including a significant number of Tamils, were travelling to Christmas Island, Australia, where the people on board intended to claim protection. It is alleged that these asylum seekers and migrants were intercepted at sea by Australian officials and are being held incommunicado with a view to transferring them to the custody of Sri Lankan officials. The asylum seekers and migrants have allegedly been subjected to a dramatically abbreviated 'screening' process conducted on the high seas without any legal assistance. On 7 July 2014, the Minister of Immigration confirmed the decision to hand 41 asylum-seekers and migrants back to Sri Lankan authorities during a transfer at sea.	10/07/2014 05/05/2015
11/08/2014 JAL	COL 6/2014 **Colombia**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;**	Presuntos asesinatos, ataques y actos de intimidación contra defensores de derechos laborales en Colombia. Según la información recibida, los Sres. Brayan Yatacue Secue, José Yiner Esterilla, José Antonio Acanamejoy y X, integrantes jóvenes de una filial de la Federación Nacional Sindical Agropecuaria (FENSUAGRO-CUT), habrían sido asesinados el 17 de mayo de 2014. El Sr. Luis Plaza Vélez, Secretario General de la Subdirectiva Bolívar de la Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT), habría sido víctima de un intento de asesinato el 16 de mayo de 2014. La sede de SINTRAEMCALI y el vehículo del Sr. José Ernesto Reyes, Vicepresidente de SINTRAEMCALI, fueron objeto de dos ataques incendiarios. La Sra. Berenice Celeyta, directora de la Asociación para la Investigación y la Acción Social (Nomadesc), habría sufrido vigilancia y actos de intimidación. Se expresa grave preocupación por la integridad física y psicológica de los sindicalistas y por las alegaciones de que los riesgos que enfrentan pudieran estar relacionados con sus actividades de promoción y protección de los derechos humanos y las libertades fundamentales. La Sra. Celeyta fue objeto de una comunicación enviada por los procedimientos especiales el 25 de febrero de 2014, véase A/HRC/26/21, caso no. COL 3/2014.	08/10/2014 30/04/2015 14/04/2015 20/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
27/11/2014 AL	MEX 25/2014 **México**	**Torture;**	Alegaciones de tortura. De acuerdo a la información recibida, el 26 de septiembre de 2012 el Sr. Luis Ángel Zazueta Cornejo fue secretamente detenido por personal de la Policía Estatal Preventiva del Estado de Baja California siendo amenazado, golpeado y torturado en el domicilio de sus padres. Posteriormente, fue trasladado a dependencias de la Policía Estatal Preventiva del Estado de Baja California donde, luego de golpes adicionales, insultos y amenazas le fue implantado un paquete con cocaína para ser utilizada como prueba en su contra.	15/05/2015
06/01/2015 JAL	SAU 16/2014 **Saudi Arabia**	**Freedom of expression; Human rights defenders;**	Allegations of a travel ban imposed on a woman human rights defender in reprisal for her cooperation with the United Nations, its mechanisms and representatives in the field of human rights. According to the information received, Ms. Samar Badawi, a human rights defender advocating for the release of her spouse, human rights lawyer Mr. Waleed Abu al-Khair, received threats after having publicly raised the subject of her spouse's and other political prisoners' detention in Saudi Arabia in a statement she delivered to the Human Rights Council at its 27th session on 16 September 2014. On 3 December 2014, Ms. Badawi was allegedly prevented by security officials in King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah from flying abroad due to a travel ban issued against her for an indefinite period of time. Grave concern is expressed at the allegations that the travel ban against Ms. Badawi was imposed in reprisal for her cooperation with the Human Rights Council. Ms. Badawi's spouse, Mr. Al-Khair was the subject of four communications sent by special procedures on 3 May 2012, see A/HRC/21/49, case no. SAU 7/2012; on 12 July 2012, see A/HRC/22/67, case no. SAU 9/2012; on 24 April 2014, see A/HRC/27/72, case no. SAU 5/2014; and on 8 December 2014, see above, case no. SAU 14/2014.	13/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
19/02/2015 JUA	THA 2/2015 **Thailand**	**Business enterprises; Environment; Food; Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions; Toxic waste;**	Allegations of threats against, incommunicado detention, attempted killing and killings of several environmental and land rights defenders, as well as threats against community members. According to the information received, on 30 November 2014, Mr. Pitan Thongpanang, who had been leading a campaign against a mining company operating the Barite mine in Nonpitan District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province, was shot dead by an unknown armed man. On 3 December 2014, Mr. Somsuk Kohkrang, a land rights activist in Muang District, Krabi Province, was shot dead by an unknown armed man. On 29 December 2014, the house of Mr. Suwit Jeh-Soh, a community activist and school director in Mueng Ta Kau Village, Phattalung Province, was attacked by unknown armed individuals with multiple rounds of gunfire. On 3 February 2015, Mr. Pianrat Boonrit, a prominent land rights activist from the Premsub community in Chaiburi District, Surat Thani Province, while complying with a summons he had received to present himself at Vibhavadi Rangsit Military Camp, was detained and held incommunicado for two days. On 11 February 2015, Mr. Chai Bunthonglek, a community land rights activist from the Khlong Sai Pattana Community in Chaiburi District, Surat Thani Province, was shot dead by two unidentified armed men. Two previous communications concerning killings of environmental and land rights defenders were sent to the Government of Thailand; on 9 January 2013, see A/HRC/23/51, case no. THA 1/2013; and on 2 April 2013, see A/HRC/24/21, case no. THA 3/2013.	24/02/2015 02/04/2015 21/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
20/02/2015 JAL	ARG 1/2015 **Argentina**	**Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Independence of judges and lawyers; Summary executions;**	Alegaciones relativas a interferencias en torno a la investigación de la muerte de un fiscal; a intentos de cercenamiento del ejercicio de los derechos a la libertad de expresión y de reunión pacífica de fiscales y jueces; y a amenazas de muerte y represalias en contra de un Juez. Según la información recibida, el Fiscal General Natalio Alberto Nisman habría sido encontrado muerto el 18 de enero de 2015. El Fiscal Nisman estaba a cargo de la investigación del atentado perpetrado contra la sede de la Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA), ocurrido el 18 de julio de 1994, y habría formulado una denuncia contra autoridades del gobierno nacional por delito de encubrimiento. Se reportan interferencias en torno a la investigación de la muerte del Fiscal Nisman. Se reportan también expresiones descalificantes e intimidatorias en contra de jueces y fiscales interesados en asistir a una marcha pacífica en memoria del Fiscal Nisman, el 18 de febrero de 2015. Finalmente, el Juez Claudio Bonadío, a cargo de investigaciones por actos de corrupción de altos funcionarios del gobierno nacional, habría recibido amenazas de muerte y represalias, así como también su hijo. Se expresa seria preocupación por las alegaciones expuestas que se inscriben en un clima extremadamente tenso en cuanto a la independencia del Poder Judicial.	30/04/2015 11/05/2015

Date *Type*	*Case No* *Country*	*Mandate(s)*	*Summary of the allegation transmitted*	*Reply*
20/02/2015 JAL	VEN 1/2015 **Venezuela**	**Freedom of expression; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Human rights defenders; Summary executions;**	Alegaciones relativas a las disposiciones de la resolución ministerial 008610, las cuales limitarían de forma desproporcionada e innecesaria el ejercicio del derecho a la libertad de reunión pacífica y el derecho a la libertad de expresión. Según la información recibida, dicha resolución, adoptada por el Ministerio del Poder Popular para la Defensa el 23 de enero de 2015 y publicada en la Gaceta Oficial el 27 de enero de 2015, incluiría disposiciones que limitarían indebidamente derechos fundamentales, incluido los derechos a la libertad de reunión pacífica y de expresión, al asimilar los movimientos de protestas pacíficos a amenazas al orden público y otorgar amplios poderes a las fuerzas de seguridad para evaluar el grado de fuerza necesario para la disolución de las asambleas. Los relatores temen que la supuesta reciente adopción de la resolución ministerial 008610 sea el resultado de un contexto crecientemente restrictivo para el ejercicio de libertades fundamentales en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela. El supuesto uso excesivo de la fuerza por agentes de seguridad estatales fue objeto de una comunicación previa el 11 de julio de 2013, ver referencia no. A/HRC/25/74, caso no. VEN 5/2013, y de una posterior comunicación el 3 de marzo de 2014, ver referencia no. A/HRC/27/72, caso no. VEN 1/2014.	22/04/2015 20/05/2015

Appendix

Mandates of special procedures

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	25/17
Working Group of Experts on people of African descent	27/25
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	24/7
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism	28/6
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	23/15
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	24/29
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic	24/34
Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire	26/32
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	28/9
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	27/9
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	25/25
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	26/20
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	23/21
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	27/1
Independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	25/16
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	26/17
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	28/11
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	26/3
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	22/9
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	25/2
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	24/5
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	22/20

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	PRST 25/1
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	26/21
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	25/18
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	26/7
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	24/9
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	23/8
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	25/24
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	25/36
Working Group on the use of mercenaries	24/13
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	26/19
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	25/5
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	25/26
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	24/20
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	5/1
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	28/16
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence	27/3
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	25/32
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	25/6
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	24/3
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	26/6
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	24/28
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	24/30
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	26/12
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	S-18/1
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	22/8

Mandate title	*Human Rights Council resolution*
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	25/13
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	27/23
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	26/8
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	26/22
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	27/21
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	23/25
Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice	23/7
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	24/18